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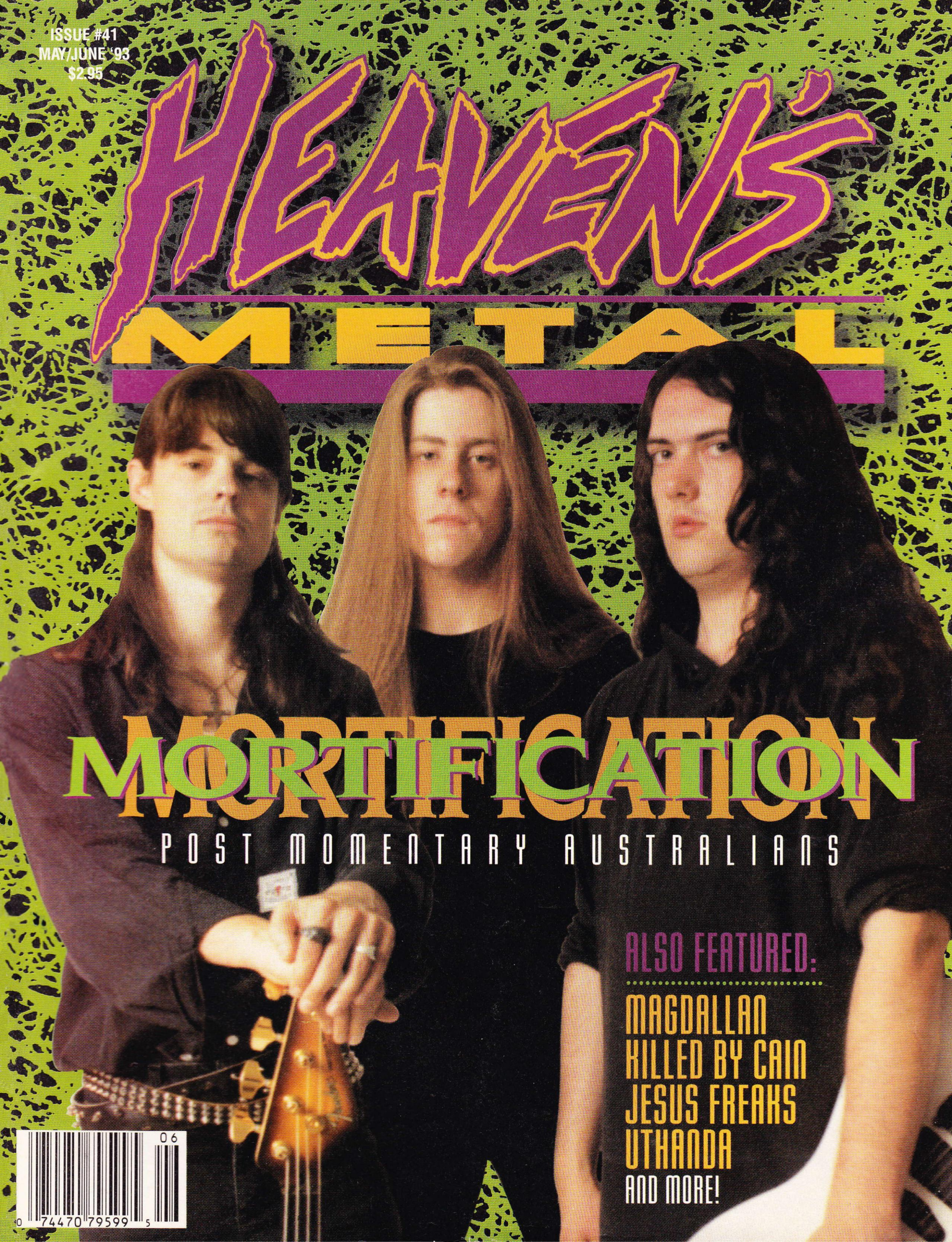
HEAVEN'S METAL



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Issue Number 41
May/June '93

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Mortification's Afflictions And Answers

Steve Rowe, Jayson Sherlock, Michael Carlisle

Rrrrrooowwwwwlllllllgggggghhhh!!! Grrrrrrowllllll! Yes, it's Steve Rowe of Mortification warming up his voice for another Heaven's Metal interview... Actually, all he had to do was warm up his nimble fingers to write down the answers to the following questions, which he faxed over his phone lines, which was either beamed up to a satellite or sent via fibre-optic cable buried underneath the Pacific Ocean and relayed to the United States and into the Heaven's Metal fax machine. Technology and death metal go hand in hand, eh? Here are Steve's answers.

**Tell us about the new album.

''Well,'' answers Steve, ''the new album is us to stay. In many ways, it is a return to our original vision with the first album--in a musical sense; but, of course, the new songs are way stronger and the production value, having spent 35 days in the studio, is rich and full. The lyrical approach is very positive, but at the same time very confrontational. Main themes are: sin, temptation, God's values, salvation, end times, and the essence of a godly life. We are aiming at three groups with the new album: the born again Christian; the unsaved; and Catholics.

''Let me explain before you send out the nasty letters. I realize that within the Catholic Church there are many born again Christians, but I would say from observation that most are not. It is very interesting that many people who come and talk with me after shows are Catholics congratulating us on our lyrics and wanting to know about our born-again faith. It is evident that many people in the metal scene around the world have Catholic ties, because the church is millions strong. Thus, we have given the new album some Catholic appeal. The sacred heart appears on the cover, and in the song '**Distarnish Priest**,' I used a lot of Catholic terminology, like Eucharist, penitence and robes, etc. I love the symbolism and grandeur of the Catholic Church, but, of course, also realize that physical elements account for little when we are in a personal relationship with a personal God. Anyway, I'm sure some Catholic imagery will appear on the next album also, because I have a heart to see people born again.''

**Tell us about the Nuclear Blast deal.

''The Nuclear Blast deal is awesome. They are right behind us in a big way and have given us a massive advertising push. Funny thing is: the owner, Marcus Stiager, is a Catholic. Frontline have been great and gave me the freedom to approach secular labels for a lease deal. I have always had as part of my vision to have strong mainstream impact, as Believer have through Roadracer and Tourniquet through Metal Blade. Nuclear Blast were looking to sign a Christian band and we came along at the right time. Nuclear Blast are one of the five big grind labels, along with Earache, Roadracer, Peaceville and Century Media.

''Considering the hundreds and hundreds of demo tapes these labels receive, it has been a great blessing to be signed. Thanks to God for opening the door and Frontline for giving us enough money to record albums that are on a par with the production of the big mainstream bands. We have, as a result of Nuclear Blast's hard work, done interviews with major magazines--Metal Hammer, Rock Hard and Extreme Noise. Album reviews have been favorable and Nuclear Blast have gone into re-pressing 'SCROLLS...' which is really exciting. In this month's reader's poll in Rock Hard Magazine (Europe's second biggest besides Kerrang!) we came 23rd out of 50 in the albums people have been listening to. Out of the 50 bands listed, only about 18 were death metal and the list included Bon Jovi, Metallica, Iron Maiden, etc., so that was real evidence of immediate acceptance.''

**Why the change in style?

''The new album is not a change in style, but in approach. We are still definitely a grind metal band, but probably now better labelled as a hybrid grind metal

Steve Rowe (Photo by Sally Officer)

band, combining elements of death metal grindcore, European thrash and classic metal. All the styles are not original, but the way we have put them together definitely is. After 'SCROLLS...' I started praying hard, because I was not convinced that total death/grind had much longevity. I want to take this band on another seven years. Also, I wanted to have maximum evangelical appeal, and 'SCROLLS...' was, in a lot of ways, too extreme for people even into Sepultura or Sodom. I believe God spoke to me strongly when we toured New Zealand and played to crowds in which not one death metal t-shirt appeared. Most wore Sepultura or Iron Maiden shirts, etc.

''Anyway, I initially had as Mortification's direction a death/thrash band, and that is what we now are. Not dead style thrash, but popular European style. Black metal has once again reared its ugly head in Europe, with bands like Dark Throne, Samuel Beherit and Impaled Nazarene playing music similar to old Venom, Bathory and Celtic Frost--and selling heaps of albums. This scene and these bands are far worse than death metal and the likes of Glen Benton of Deicide. These bands live totally sold-out demonic lifestyles and many are part of a Norwegian cult know as the ''Black Metal Council,'' who trash churches and bash Christians as part of their activities. Bizarre behavior could lead to murder if not already, and many are living deranged lifestyles, such as never talking, never smiling and constantly dwelling on hate.

''Thus, Mortification being a hybrid band is not boxing us in. Our new album will appeal to death/grind fans, black metal fans, thrash and classic metal fans also. We have a broad base of appeal and bands in the mainstream doing what we are doing musically are becoming very popular, i.e., Paradise Lost, Tiamat and, of course, Morbid Angel. My vocal approach on this album is unique, as I have combined vocal styles found on death/grind, thrash and black metal albums. With this album, we are being innovators of a new hybrid style, something that should make us stand out--I hope!''

**Is death metal wrong?

''No, death metal is excellent, but not what God is calling Mortification to as a boxed style.''

**What is the death metal scene?

''It looks like it is becoming hybrid with all those old styles coming back into popularity. It is in any hall or club in the world where people gather to mosh about to their favorite extreme metal bands. At its most extreme, it is a vast underground network of tape traders and hundreds of unsigned bands. Very healthy!!''

**How do you do your vocal delivery (secrets)?

''Contrary to common opinions, I don't have a constant cold, sore throat or gargle razor blades. The opposite is the truth. Any sore throat would mean I couldn't really perform. With anything, it is practice and development. Anybody who's heard our 1990 demo, 'BREAK THE CURSE,' will tell you the vocals suck big time. Being a skinny fella, I've had to concentrate on deep breathing, pushing from the stomach and concentrating on feeling how to create rich vocal sounds. Believe it or not, my new shout style in some spots is way harder than the growls. It has to be controlled or you can damage your vocal chords, but hey, that happens every day with opera singers, so it's the same: just practicing and sensible rich guttural execution, rather than grunting from the throat.''

Michael Carlisle (Photo by Sally Officer)

**What about the personnel changes?

''When I was in Lightforce, in order to please everyone, I let everybody have an equal say in the band. As a consequence, the musical approach, evangelical approach and personal unity moved a long way from the original vision. Again, with Mortification, we all had an equal say and I ended up disillusioned with what the approach became. Let me explain, in starting both projects, it was like a senior pastor starting a church. He needs a team around him, but it is important that the senior pastor makes it known that he makes the final decisions after consulting the council of his brethren. During the New Zealand tour, I got together with Mick and told him that I had to take the reigns of the band, otherwise it was going to fall apart. The unity--personally, musically and in evangelical vision--was just not happening. Mick has an awesome support role and has come alongside of me incredibly, definitely helped by the fact that he has the same musical likes as I do.

''I knew the one who would be the most affected by my decision would be Jayson. Jayson is a great man of God and awesomely talented in music and artwork, but loves pure death metal and we were clashing heads in a lot of other areas also. We tried to work everything out, but, as a consequence, have decided to part ways. It is a mutual split and we are still great friends. Jayson has joined the band Paramecium and will be producing their debut CD. They are a super tuned-down doom/death band like Cathedral and old Bolt Thrower. I know God is going to use them mightily and it is great that Jayson will have the outlet for what he really wants to do. Mick and I are not in a rush to find a replacement as, obviously, Jayson's shoes are big to fill.''

**What is it like being on the cover of Heaven's Metal?

''Totally awesome!! One of my mid-term visions of this type of exposure.

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Has death ever been so inviting...

Obviously, my short-term vision was getting signed and established, which we have achieved. Now I am hoping we can get some major acceptance in the Christian and secular scenes which we are. When I first saw Heaven's Metal and have seen it grow, I always thought it would be great to get on the cover, and here we are. It's such a privilege and feels great. Thanks Lord!! Long-term vision is selling 100,000 copies of each album, being full-time and playing to 2,000 people wherever we go.''

**What is the future for Mortification?

''Mass exposure, mass sales, mass salvations, mass fun--I hope. There is a good possibility that we will be touring with Living Sacrifice in June. If that doesn't work out we will endeavor to do our own tour later in the year. Please pray for us, as it seems it's gonna take a miracle to actually get to the U.S. to tour. We will be touring with a fill-in drummer.''

**Any last comments?

''Christians, please check out anything you do in God's name. Many Christian fanzines are rising up and, 'Great,' I say, but I am worried about some being a bit badly planned. I received an interview request and flyer from a new Christian fanzine the other day, whose slogan was, 'Totally sick Christian zine.' They had advertised us for their first issue, which was a bit of a worry, considering how I felt about their slogan. I have also received artwork from Christian artists wanting to work with us showing mangled heads, etc. I know that we have done rad artwork and had extreme lyrics. We even have a new song coming out on the next Nuclear Blast compilation, which is called '**Butchered Mutilation**,' which is about Christ's whipping. It has a scriptural base, but is a song for the secular market definitely. It is not on the album, because I am concerned that some Christian kids are taking imagery a tad too far. Please check your stuff out with your pastors and the Bible. If you are providing a mag for your bro's, make it edifying; if for the unsaved, make it appealing, but please make it scriptural!

''I am also in the process of finishing my first novel, titled 'MINSTREL.' It is a medieval tale of God using so-called 'pagan' music for His glory. It focuses on God's power as the main thing to see someone saved and issues young people face. I will be publishing it sometime in the next 12 months, so I will keep you posted on when it will be available. See you all on tour!!

''One more thing, a Christian ground-breaking band, Vengeance Rising, is over. In my opinion, 'HUMAN SACRIFICE' is the greatest Christian album of all time, and Roger has helped us greatly. I don't want Roger to finish unrecognized. He is facing personal problems he must resolve with old band members and, due to many circumstances, has had to call it a day. I'm sure if you sent letters to Sanctuary, Bob Beeman would pass them on to Roger. I know he is a disappointed man, so please send your letters of appreciation to him for his major impact in this scene we love so much. I know how I'd feel if I was forced to give up. What has happened to me both by my own mistakes and what others had done against me has almost forced me to finish at times. I know Roger's retirement from metal ministry has been a result of many circumstances surrounding the band, so please write Roger. I salute you bro!!''

HM

MAGDALLAN'S FACELIFT

By Kevin Allison

Lanny Cordola (Photos by Larry Bolen/I.H.S. Photos)

It's been nearly three years since former House of Lords/Vanilla Fudge guitarist Lanny Cordola re-committed his life to the Lord and to the art of electric ministry. To some, Cordola is a mysterious believer, with infrequent visits to the industrial temples of our corporate Christianity. For others, he is a soft-spoken evangelist for the hardened hearts and minds of the mainstream rock 'n' roll elite, whose paths he has crossed over a period of some twenty albums that Cordola has been involved with since the early 80's. During the next one-thousand words, we'll allow the 32-year-old Cordola to speed us thru his first two solo albums, the very first Magdallan, his upcoming acoustic blues tribute called ''SHACK OF PEASANTS'' and, of course, the long-awaited reincarnation of Magdallan on Essential Records. This new project, whose pre-release cassette was six weeks away at the time of this interview, features a totally new lineup, minus the heralded Ken Tamplin, whose own new project has been picked up by Benson Records.

And now, let's enter the ''Revolution Mind'' of Lanny Cordola!

**Before we touch on Magdallan, tell us about Shack of Peasants.

''I've always been into the blues,'' reports Lanny. ''It wasn't any big plan. Reverend Gary Davis and Blind Willie Johnson are two of my favorite artists. It's a pretty good cross-section of acoustic blues that a few of us did for Metro One. I wrote two songs, ''**Tears of Faith**'' and ''**Tribute**.'' (They're) all analog 16-track. I played 6 and 12 string, mandolin and even a little bit of singing. We didn't use drums. Darrell Mansfield played harmonica and stuff. It's about those people who did this music for the love of God. They were street corner preachers who didn't do it for the money.''

**How much of this blues album will affect Magdallan?

''A little bit, but not all that much. I wanted to focus the new Magdallan in one direction, since with my solo albums I tend to go everywhere stylistically.''

**What keeps you from singing more?

''I work with great singers like Phil Bardowell (''**The Real Thing**'' on ''OF RIFFS AND SYMPHONIES''), Ken (Tamplin) or James Christian keep me in my place. If there's a particular song that will fit my voice, then I'll sing it. I'm more of a hacker, a la Tom Petty or Bruce Springsteen type on vocals.''

**What are some misconceptions of the new Magdallan?

''This new album will be much more observational lyrically on what is happening today, rather than the heavy prophecy approach. It's called ''**Revolution Mind**.'' These are things that we've gone through personally or seen that we can convey onto this record. The first record was geared more toward the ''Big Bang'' theory and prophecy, because that's where we were at then. It helped me to become a more persistent writer and

lyricist. I can always practice my guitar to keep my chops up, but lyric writing is a difficult challenge. ''BIG BANG'' was very good for me on that level. I hope those people who expect this to be a Ken and Lanny album will think it's cool. We're going to play live and go out and meet people and let them know where we're coming from. This album is more applicable to playing live, while the first one I didn't know how we were going to pull off half that album live. We weren't really worried about it at the time, because we figured, 'If Queen can write '**Bohemian Rhapsody**' and worry about playing it live...' This album will be more raw. It's got a great rhythm section and is being recorded differently for that live feel.''

**Explain the Ken Tamplin split.

(Background: Cordola gave guitar lessons to Tamplin when he was 16 to 18 years of age) ''Basically, when Ken decided to pursue his other musical interests, and hook up with Gene Simmons for a solo project (which eventually turned into the new TAMPLIN album on Benson), I wanted to keep it going, but things weren't meant to be. I decided to put the Magdallan concept on the backburner and did the instrumental albums (''ELECTRIC WARRIOR, ACOUSTIC SAINT'' and ''OF RIFFS AND SYMPHONIES''). I started writing and experimenting with different styles. Eventually, the time was right for a new Magdallan, and I'm really excited about it. The first album was a good experience and I enjoyed working with Ken. At times it was difficult and at times it was great. I have a lot of respect for his talent.''

**Give us a sneak preview of the Magdallan vibe.

''There's one cut called '**American Lament**,' which is a bluesy Ray Charles/B.B. King song with a rock touch. There's even some Beatles and U2 influences. I'm really into the 60's thing with soul and funk as well. The last record was real slick and this one is not being produced like that on purpose. We're going to try to use some older instruments, like the Melotron and the Harmonium, some organ, piano and Leslie guitar. I'm not really into samplers and a lot of patches. I like playing with real people and making them sound real. It doesn't have to sound perfect, just genuine.''

**Would you feel restricted working with just one style?

''I would if it had my name on it. I don't want to play all over the place at this point with a new band. At first, you've got to establish a sound and find a groove.''

**With five albums in this market under your belt, how do you fight the star trip?

''I'm not really interested in being a guitar icon. I'm really uncomfortable hearing compliments, but if I don't get any, then I feel like there's something wrong. God teaches us humility, especially me. There were times in my career when I played before 50,000 people and didn't play particularly well and didn't really care, but the accolades came from everywhere. Then, there were times when I would practice for days on a song and play in front of ten people who didn't even seem to be interested. The closer you get in touch with God and family and turn away from the destructive things like backstabbing and hem-hawing, the better you'll be. I wrote a song on this record called ''**Mad at the World**'' (about the frustration factor of relating to some people and what they do) and ''**Baby Insane**'' (a gang member) about people who kill for no reason. ''**Revolution Mind**'' is an observational song about being a Christian in a strange world.''

**Does your guitar become your only friend at times?

''Oh yeah. One of the greatest gifts that God gave us is music. Sometimes I'll be bummed out and I'll go downstairs and write through the emotion. I don't usually write when everything is normal. Instead, I'll just practice or do some instrumental work. It's very therapeutic. When I write my own music, I find that some of my better work comes when I'm down and it can be expressed through a song.''

**With all of your connections (Beach Boys, Full House, John Stamos, etc.), why aren't you pushing Magdallan to the mainstream?

''That's my intention. It's all God's timing. If it's meant to be, it will happen. I've been trying to do so many things that I've had to narrow down my priorities. At first, the Magdallan thing was like, 'Well, we'll do it and see what happens.' I've done 20 records and toured the world and been on tv. You watch things from a distance after a while in the music business. We've got a good comradery and we're certainly going to try to go mainstream. When I first started out, I was seriously into the music. I wrote all these songs that I thought were cool and, looking back, about 90 percent weren't very cool at all. With the House of Lords, the novelty had begun to wear off. In the last three years, the spark has returned and I'm really excited about this new Magdallan. I'm re-writing songs up to four times, because I'm serious about the message we're projecting. I'm trying not to be a 'fill in the blanks' writer. We just want to tell people where we've been and share our experiences. The world's a messed up place and, without God, the more screwed up this world becomes.''

**Have people misunderstood your intentions?

''It's dangerous in a lot of ways. You look at this David Koresh guy and he says he's a Christian. Only God knows. A lot of people thought that Noah was a drunk at the end of his life from that Scripture in Genesis. We just want to preach goodness. Even those people who preach out on the street corner can be dangerous. That approach wouldn't have won me over when I was in the world. Most people know where I'm coming from. I don't preach to them or tell them how to live. I'm not going to play in a band with complete drunks or drug addicts, although if they have a problem I'll be glad to help them. I won't condemn them, but I don't want to be around it either.''

**Give us a rundown of the new band.

''Ken Mary on drums. Ken and I did the first House of Lords album together. He's also worked with Alice Cooper and Don Dokken, as well as working on the first Magdallan album. Phil Bardowell on vocals. This is his first full record. He's played with different bands, but no big names. Chuck Wright on bass. He also was in House of Lords. He's played with Quiet Riot and Ted Nugent. This is the first band thing I've done where I came in really lukewarm and nonchalant, but it's turned into something really hot.''

''REVOLUTION MIND'' will feature 13 tracks on the CD. Eleven of those will be a full band effort, with one sing-along and one orchestral piece. Lanny wrote most of the album in one day after hitting a writing block for over two weeks. The original working title was ''RIGHT NOW,'' which sounded great until Van Halen released it. That ''title track'' was changed to ''**Soul Child**.'' **HM**

Hi! We're Killed By Cain

Tyler Bacon of R.E.X. Records swears that Killed By Cain will be the 1993 Heaven's Metal Favorite New Band of the Year. With production done by Bride's Dale Thompson and with a hard, raw aggressive style, Killed By Cain is definitely one of the hottest new metal groups on the market. Will they be the 1993 Favorite New Band of the Year? Read **David Jenison's** interview with Killed By Cain's vocalist John Warren and make up your own mind.

L to R: Bassist Steve Curtsinger, Guitarist Tony Bowling, Vocalist John Warren, Drummer Stephan Roland

**How would you describe your musical style?

''When we write music,'' explains John, ''we write what we believe is good, without doing anything to purposely please any audience. I hate comparing us to other bands, but Tyler at R.E.X. describes us as Pantera doing Guns 'N' Roses cover tunes. We are heavy and raw, but we still have melody.''

**Tell me about Dale Thompson's involvement on the project.

''I met Dale several years ago when he was in a band called Matrix. I was friends with his brother Troy first and met Dale through Troy. Our band first worked with Dale on a demo we did called ''The First Sin,'' where Dale laid down background vocals for us on a few of the songs. After we got signed, Dale called me with the idea of producing the new album. Everyone loved the idea, so we just went from there.''

**What did Dale do for you as a producer?

''Since our first demo, we have always produced our own music, so it was really laid back. He had many good ideas that we used, which worked out really well. Dale also had some lyrics to a song which he could not use on the Bride album, so he gave them to us. The song is called '**Violence**,' and is about prejudice. Dale wrote the lyrics and I arranged the melodies.''

**Tell me about the intro to the album.

''Dale wrote and sang the intro. We got a radio sound out of one of the effects, so it sounds like Dale is talking out of an AM radio. To get the weird guitar sound, we recorded the guitar in high speed and then slowed it down.''

**You also have Bride's old drummer, Stephen Rolland, in the group. Tell me how he came to be a part of Killed By Cain.

''After drumming for Bride on the first three albums, he left the group and took a break. About a year and a half later, in 1991, Stephen joined us and has been with us ever since. He joined us two months before we played Cornerstone.''

**How many demos did you record before getting signed?

''We put out about six demos under the group name White Ray, but not all have been released. Our first demo, which we never put on the market, came out in early 1988. Unless I know someone really well, I will not even let him hear it. About three months later, we did another demo which came out pretty well.''

**How long have you been around?

''We began as White Ray back in 1987. When we first started off, we did not worry about record labels, because all we wanted to do was play. As time went on, we realized that we were as good as, if not better, than some of the bands out on the market. We decided to branch out by recording demos.''

**What demos have been reviewed in Heaven's Metal?

''We had four of our demos reviewed in Heaven's Metal. When the last one was reviewed, the writer actually made the comment that someone really needed to sign us. Someone did.''

**Weren't you guys signed once before?

''Yes, in 1991. The head of Image Records liked one of our songs he heard on the radio and contacted us. After receiving our press kit, he met with us in Nashville. Previously, all the labels who had received our demos did not want to pick us up because they said we sounded too secular. Image Records, on the other hand, liked our sound and was willing to take a chance with us. However, right after they signed us, they lost much of their distribution, and the label started going downhill day by day. Image Records went under, and the contract was voided.''

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Tell me about the song "Burn The Church**."

"The Bible speaks about people who were offended when Jesus said, 'Tear down the temple and I will rebuild it in three days.' Obviously, Jesus did not mean the literal temple. He was talking about Himself. '**Burn The Church**' does not refer to burning an actual church, but about Christians getting rid of their religion. Some Christians call other Christians wrong, because they interpret something differently that is not even essential to our salvation. There are people out there who really need to get off their pedestals."

Tell me about the song "Sin City**."

"Originally, the song was on our demo and was much harder. The lyrics talk about a person who is envisioning a sin, but not doing it. Though he is not physically committing the sin, mentally the sin has been committed. The second verse of the song goes, 'I see visions in my mind/ Took no action, but committed the crime/It was in my heart, the damage was done.' The idea comes from the biblical concept that, if you commit sin in your heart, you might as well have done it."

**Your songs cover a great deal with sex sin. Any particular reason?

"Sexual sin needs to be dealt with, especially because it has been generally ignored in the Christian market--probably because people in the industry have a problem with it. It seems to be a taboo topic.

"One of our songs, '**Walk The Line**,' talks about AIDS. People need to realize that sex kills. Not only is sex a sin, but now it will actually physically kill you. Regretfully, AIDS will kill many innocent people. There are young people who have not been brought up in the right background. Society, television, and certain kinds of music have programmed these kids' minds into believing that sex is something that you are supposed to do. Kids are dying, and no one seems to be doing anything about it."

**Killed By Cain is a great name. How did you come up with it?

"One of the stipulations for us being signed was that we had to change our name. As we were thinking of a new name, I jokingly suggested 'Killed By Cain,' which was the title of one of our old songs. We pretty much passed the name over. When we presented our ideas to Doug (Mann) and Tyler, they did not like any of the names. After all our names were shot down, I said that we had another name, but it was kind of a joke name. We told them, 'Killed By Cain,' and they loved it. It is a tongue-twisting, catchy name."

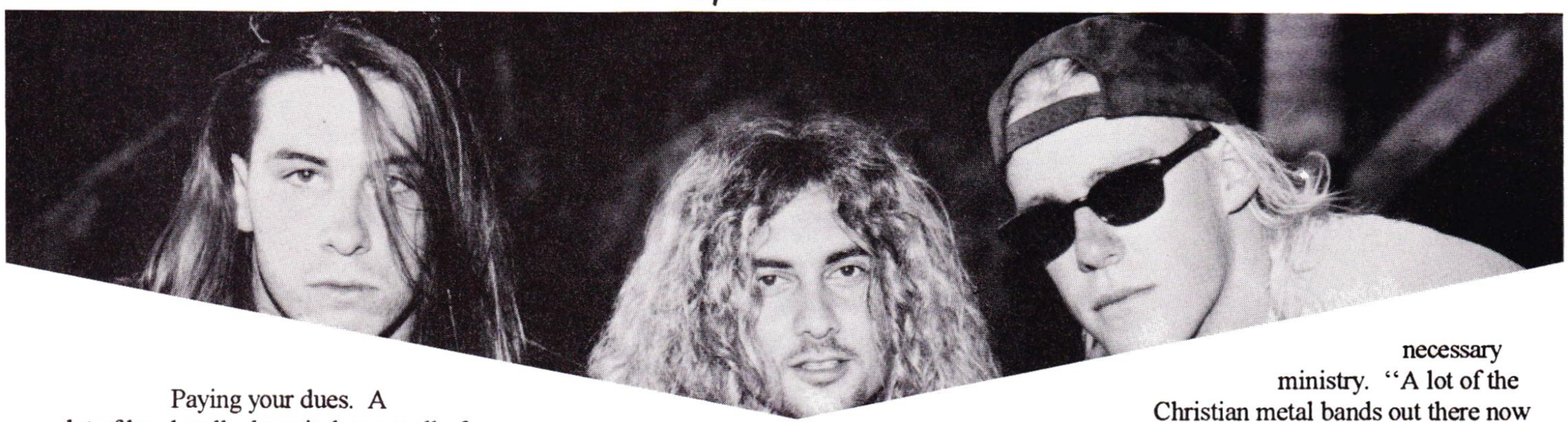
**Any concluding comments?

"Killed By Cain is something that kids should really pick up and listen to, not just for the music, but also for the lyrics. We want people to think about their life and whether or not they are in tune with God. If they are not, they need to do whatever they need to do to get in touch with God. Otherwise, all they are is walking dead."

For booking information, you may contact the band manager, James Riley, at: 8810 Royal Oak Drive, Louisville, KY 40272 (502) 937-1706. **HM**

The Jesus Freaks' Dues And Don'ts

By Pastor Dave Hart



Paying your dues. A lot of bands talk about it, but not all of them have done it. When I finally caught up with them, singer/bassist Eric Peterson, drummer Lance Hahn and guitarist Zach Martinez (and John--your friendly, neighborhood roadie) were paying some serious dues. Their first major tour took them through the South, then up to Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania and then on to the rest of the East Coast. This put them out on the road for three solid, grinding months. Ouch! (Kids, don't try this at home!) Even over the phone, the boys looked beat.

''This tour has been spiritually challenging,'' said Lance. ''But I'll tell you what, I've never learned so much in my life. I learned that, if you put four guys in a really small place, you're gonna run into some problems. I've run into things I've never run into before, but it's making me a stronger Christian.''

''I'm also learning about feeling alone. I often tell the fans at our shows that faith is a commitment, not a feeling. But I've had to look at that in my own life on this tour. I'm far away from my family and friends at home, and at times I've felt like I've lost touch with the voice of God. It's a very lonely feeling. But I'll tell you what, when you continue on, you find out what kind of Christian you really are.''

Despite the hardships, the Jesus Freaks were pretty positive and upbeat about what they were doing. After all, this is what they've wanted to do since the band began. They started out three or four years ago in Sacramento--almost like a Christian version of ''Bill and Ted.'' Life-long friends Lance and Eric decided to start a band in high school. Influenced by groups like Suicidal Tendencies, Exodus and Metallica (Eric's vocal style is unmistakably influenced by Jim Hetfield), the boys became a thrash band. But there was another band that was even more influential than those popular thrash-mongers: a local band called New December.

''My sister's boyfriend, Raphael, had this neo-punk band about five years ago that would practice in our garage,'' Lance revealed. ''They never got famous and, musically, they were kind of lame. But they didn't care. They were a ministry band. They were just out to preach the Gospel and that's all they cared about. And I looked over at the drummer and I thought, 'I really want to do that.' I looked at their lives and they were really fired up for the Lord. I thought, 'That's what I want to be.'''

Eric was going through his own renewal at that time and was eager to do something to reflect his recommitment to Christ. He eagerly agreed to join Lance in this musical effort. Later, at a Christian rock ministry called The Wherehouse, the guys met Zach. Almost ten years older than Lance and Eric (they're both about 21), Zach had already gone through his bout with drugs and the party lifestyle. The harder they practiced, the harder the music got, until they developed their pure, raw thrash sound.

Supported by their manager (Eric's mom!) and accountable to the pastor of Heart Ministries, the Freaks began to play more and more. You may have first heard of them under their former name, Sacred Fate (actually misprinted as Scarlet Fate), in Doug Van Pelt's review of the Irvine Metal Festival a year and a half ago. They also played the Impromptu Stage at Cornerstone last year, which is where I first heard them. They recently signed a deal with Narrowpath Records (who first signed an insignificant unknown band you may have heard of--The Crucified). Their first record is a six-song EP called ''SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE'' (which Mr. Metal Van Pelt reviewed in Issue #40).

Out on the road, the Freaks have been playing both churches and clubs, and they feel they are getting good reception in both. Eric feels that they are filling a very necessary ministry. ''A lot of the Christian metal bands out there now don't really preach that much any more. We are really dedicated to giving the Gospel at every show. We also want to minister to the other bands we play with, too. We play our hardest and we try our hardest to preach the Gospel wherever we can.''

''The way I stand,'' adds Lance, ''is that if ministry was not a part of what I was doing in this band, I would quit, because it's not worth it. There's no glamour in being out on the road. It's physically hard, mentally hard, and spiritually hard; but Jesus Freaks is a ministry band first, and a musical band second. That's why we have a 'no preach/ no play' rule for playing gigs.''

**Any last words for the fans?

''I just want to encourage you to realize that the Last Days are here,'' says Eric. ''We don't know how much time we have. It's really important to make a firm decision about walking with Christ. Head out on that decision and really seek God. Study the Word and become fishers of men. We need to share the Gospel with whoever we can, so that all the more people can be prepared to go.''

''Don't give in and don't give up,'' says Lance. ''Don't let Satan get the best of you. You can never get too much of the Word or too much fellowship. Stay tight with God and you'll find the strength to fight the good fight. Get down to it and let's do it.''

These boys preach hard and play hard. What do they do to relax? On the tour, they sleep a lot; but they have been known to make a midnight run on an unattended trampoline on occasion. This tour ends in April. The band plans to sleep for the entire month of May. Then, in June and July they plan to tour the Western states on their way to Cornerstone. As far as Christian do's and don't are concerned, the Jesus Freaks don't intend to neglect their dues. **HM**

(L to R: Lance, Zach & Eric)

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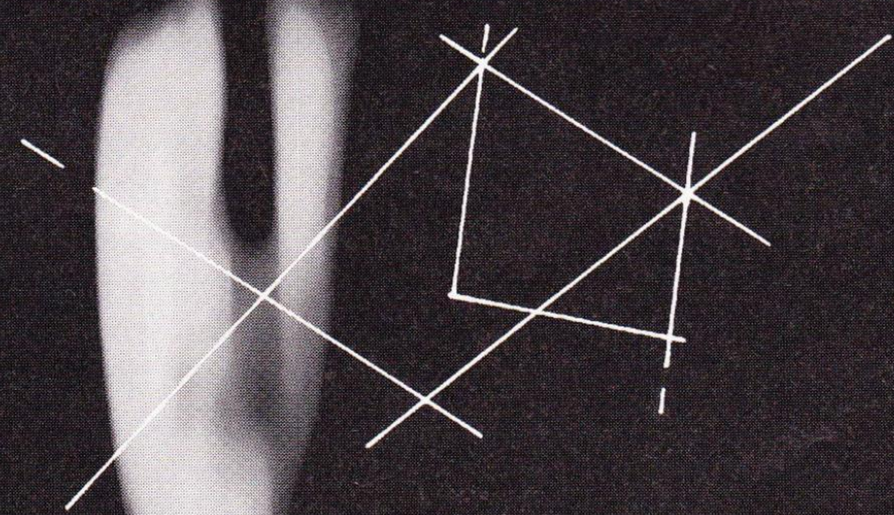

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Believing In Uthanda

Uthanda's first album "GROOVE," was one of the highest praised albums of 1992, making the top five lists in some of the market's most reputable magazines. However, Uthanda's new album, "BELIEVE," out sold the first album in a matter of weeks, proving it to be one of the finest rock releases of 1993. Now, in this special interview with Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison, Uthanda's vocalist Rob Beeson subjects himself to incredible vulnerability as he shares from his heart about the powerful message behind the new album "BELIEVE."

**Describe the new Uthanda album "BELIEVE."

"Our first album, 'GROOVE,'" says Rob, "was heavily produced and very polished, giving the album excellent commercial appeal. Changing labels to Essential Records gave us more autonomy in making the new album, 'BELIEVE,' so we produced an album that we--the band members--liked, without concern about being commercial. 'BELIEVE' is harder, raw, less produced and less polished. The raw sound gives the album more of a live feel, which is ironic, because we will never be able to reproduce the songs live with all the additional noises, horns and sounds. In some songs, like on our remake of Gary Numan's '**Cars**,' we even used some vocal distortion (i.e. industrial vocals)."

**Will there be any mainstream distribution?

"Yes, through BMG Music. The album will not be distributed, though, until September, because BMG wants to wait until it has more money to publicize the album. We could have had it distributed already, but we opted to wait until BMG was totally ready."

**The lyrical content has also changed a great deal between albums. Describe this.

"On the first album, the song topics were primarily about relationships, because that had been a critical part of my life at the time. However, as a person solidifies his relationships, he can look outside himself more. On the new record, we matured enough that our songs look beyond ourselves. For example: '**Citizen**' deals with political views, '**My Addiction**' deals with co-dependency, and '**Fear**' deals with the controlling aspect of fear in people's lives."

**Challenging beliefs seems to be a major theme of the album. Elaborate on the theme.

"People need to figure out exactly what it is and why it is that they believe what they believe as Christians. If many people had to account for their faith, they would really not know why they believe what they believe. They would say, 'My pastor told me to believe,' or 'My parents told me to believe.' Though trying to prove God wrong is rebellion, questioning God and your faith is not."

Is the song "Did You**" about challenging beliefs?

"'**Did You**' talks about people who believe they know the only right way to be a Christian. If I try to investigate the way I feel about life, people or what drives me as a person, am I in the wrong? People need to realize that God may be doing things different with me than He did with you. People should not be so quick to condemn a person's life or beliefs, because they may be condemning a work of God they do not understand.

"Controlling, judging, know-it-all Christians have surrounded me all my life. Being a missionary kid, I learned how to say and do all the right things to please the Christians around me, yet there was nothing spiritual in my heart. Now, as I am being honest about my life and my feelings, Christians will condemn and judge me, because I do not fit their model of Christian living, even though I am closer to God than I have ever been before.

"I believe in Jesus Christ and that He died on His cross and all the fundamentals of the faith. I am not challenging Who Jesus said He is. What deserves to be challenged are the religious black-and-white lines Christians draw which are often incorrect, improper, or make no difference in the big picture.

"'**Did You**' says that 'Faith is a simple door, but love is to question more.' Faith is only the beginning. To really fall in love with Jesus and know Him is to question more. As with an earthly relationship, true love happens when a person seeks to learn more about the other person."

**What experiences led you to this point in your life?

"I am at a point in my life where I am questioning everything. I am questioning my existence, what God has for me, what I have for me, and where the two shall meet. How much of my plans are my own and is it wrong to do something I want to do? I do not know. Saying, 'I do

not know,' is difficult to say, because as Christians we feel like we always have to have all the answers.

''Looking back into my past, I become sick thinking about all the missionaries living in South Africa, who were supported by tax-deductible donations, who put pools in their backyards, and then, looking at my father's life and all the good he did, remembering how he was totally shunned by the church for a mistake he made in his life. God forgave him, but no one else will. What is it that these people are on? What makes them so righteous to point the finger? Are they saying that forgiveness is not enough?

''We were treated horribly when we came back from the mission field. Here I was, about to enter my senior year with all my friends. I was on athletic teams, the honor role, had a girlfriend, and was even up for senior class president. Then, in a matter of weeks, we packed our backs and moved to America, where my parents eventually divorced. Then, there I was, entering my senior year in a school to which I had never been, with people I had never met, and without even having had enough time to fit into American culture. The very church my family had poured its entire life into rejected us when we returned to the States. My father made a mistake and had to bare the consequences, but should he and his family be treated like dirt because of that mistake?

"People need to figure out exactly what they believe."

''In '**Shadow Play**,' I recall how I did all that I thought was right, yet nothing made a difference in my life. The difference came when I had a change in my heart. I threw off my religious robes, became honest with God about my hurts and feelings, and began to encounter a real God that can only be seen by the pure in heart. The 'pure in heart' are not the super-righteous ones. Rather, they are ones whose hearts have been refined and stripped of everything but true and honest motives for wanting to know God.''

**What you describe sounds difficult.

''It is very hard, especially trying not to go too far. After being taught and living your whole life one way, one suffers when he begins to question everything. The natural tendency is to go off the deep end. Luckily, God has a great amount of grace and patience with us.''

**What would you say to the Heaven's Metal reader who is experiencing the same pain of refinement?

''That is a tough question. I guess I would encourage him not to look for a quick fix. Sometimes God allows things in our lives to be painful, because He wants to show us something we cannot comprehend, but He is always there and always in control. You are never out of His hands no matter how lonely and hurt you feel. We can only look at those who have gone before us who felt the same pain and yet God still brought them through it. We can turn to people we trust for support and encouragement.

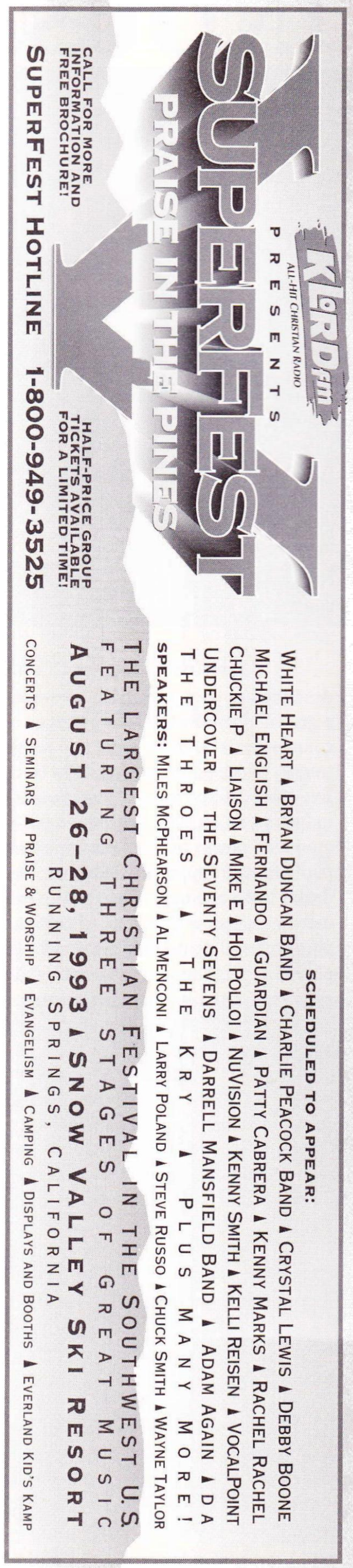
''People also need to remember that what people do, they do themselves. God does not make people be cruel to you. However, we should still never lose respect for people or the church. People are different. They themselves could also be hurting and not realize how much they are hurting you. They may be ignorant of the truth and would never judge you had they known the damage their judgment would cause.

''The hard thing about this record is that we have lots of questions, but not all the answers. I myself am going through this very refinement process. However, challenging is not a license to go out and screw around. Rather, it is a search to find out what God means to you and to figure out how much you need Him.''

**Any final comments?

''I guess I would like to finish with an illustration from the Bible. Consider Saul and David. Saul was thrust right into the kingship, and he failed miserably. David, on the other hand, was led right up to kingship, and then God took him on a major detour of loneliness, pain and rejection. Sitting in the Cave of Adullam, David must have felt totally out of God's will and like a miserable failure. Before God made David a king, God emptied David's life of everything. Then, God made David king.

''Maybe you are not in a cave, but you are alone in your room. Loneliness and rejection have replaced your zeal for God and ministry. Maybe you feel a million miles from God and His will. Now you are in a place where your salvation can only rest on God's grace. You have been emptied of all self-righteousness and all religiosity. Now, you can begin to know God.'' **HM**



industrial strength

Generation

Industrial music, which could be described as post-punk with a keyboard, is a growing genre which has emerged as a counter genre to the current pop music trend. While pop music tends to be catchy, live and centered around good vocals, industrial music uses aggressive programmed music and distorted vocals to be pop's musical opposite. However, the desire to be opposite of pop music is not merely a musical goal, but it is also a philosophical goal. The industrial mindset positions itself against the popular trends and ways of thinking in modern society, just as the punk rock movement set itself against the popular trends of the late seventies. The industrial mindset is against established institutions like our corrupt government and churches as well as against trendy music. Accordingly, the spirit behind the industrial movement reflects aggression, anger, cynicism and criticism.

In 1991 and '92 the Lollapalooza tours brought public attention to the formerly obscure sounds of industrial music through performances by the groups Nine Inch Nails and Ministry. Consequently, bands like Front 242, Skinny Puppy and Frontline Assembly have been given a second look by the market, while new industrial bands are coming out left and right. The result has been that the industrial genre has grown and expanded far from its original roots.

Nine Inch Nails has taken the industrial genre to the public by making their music more accessible through the use of melody and pop structure. Furthermore, Ministry has taken industrial into the metal market by utilizing heavy metal guitars in their music and creating a new genre one might call Industrial Metal. Industrial, however, has definitely risen out of its original mold, because now even pop rock bands like U2 and folk singers like Suzanne Vega are using industrial elements.

Industrial music has grown so quickly over the past few years that it has become difficult to classify the genre or particular bands. For the most part, though, the more aggressive guitar-oriented industrial bands have been adopted as a sub-class of the metal scene with the close musical ties between the genres. Though industrial is still in its own style, its rebellious mindset, thrashing aggressive guitars, and sheer energy makes it a sister to heavy metal. Accordingly, as industrial metal bands have emerged in the Christian market, Heaven's Metal has been close to follow them.

In the Christian industry, there have been a number of industrial metal bands which have emerged and have surprisingly been as cutting edge and as talented as the best of the mainstream market. The four most significant industrial metal bands in the Christian industry have been Generation, Under Midnight, Mortal and Brainchild.

GENERATION

Generation, which is actually a collaboration of some top Christian musicians, is the newest industrial metal group in the market. The album features Mark Robertson (Allies, Brighton, Rick Elias, Altar Boys, The Stand), Caesar Kalinowski (producer for Whitecross, Vengeance, Sacred Warrior), Randy Kerkman (Mission of Mercy), and Bruce Franklin (guitarist for the popular mainstream group Trouble). Together, these four veteran musicians put together an angry metal album very reminiscent of Ministry.

According to Caesar, Generation's musical style reflects the evolution of metal music as influenced by the industrial movement. Specifically, he states, ''Generation is what heavy metal and thrash are becoming in the 90's. Look at bands like Helmet, Ministry and Prong. Each of these bands is more metal than industrial, but they reflect the way metal is moving. Metal is getting faster, harder, grungier and industrial influenced. Musical styles have to evolve and change to stay current and popular, and we wanted to record an album that is current. Though Generation will fall into the industrial column, I do not know if Generation will be considered industrial for very long.''

When asked what it was like playing with Bruce Franklin of Trouble, Caesar remarks, ''It was killer working with him, because he has such a legendary guitar tone and is such an experienced and ripping player. Everyone on the record, though, is a killer musician! It is possible that we might end up staying together as a band. We have been getting requests to play live, which would be cool.'' When asked if Bruce will perform live with the band, Caesar answers, ''Bruce said that he wants to perform with us, and I would like to think he will, but we cannot say for sure, because he is in Trouble and has commitments there.''

One song on the Generation album that is bound to create a controversy is the song ''**Chemikill**.'' Caesar explains why: '''**Chemikill**' is a song about drug use written from a different angle. The song adopts the drug user's perspective that, 'I am not hurting myself and I am not hurting you, so what do you care--I am just expanding my mind. If I choose to use and

Christian music...

not abuse, what is the difference?' However, all the samples flying over the lyrics are pointing out all the physical and psychological affects of drug abuse as a stark contradiction to the lyrics. We will probably be burned by listeners who do not listen to the samples and thus misinterpret the song. However, we believe this different way of approaching the subject will be more effective than a 'Just Say No' song. Most of us in the band grew up using all kinds of drugs as we ran around playing in clubs. At that point, if someone said, 'Don't do it!,' we would not have gone, 'Oh, you are right. I will stop.' People who do not see the harm in drugs will be sucked in by the lyrics, because they are a little easier to digest, only to be hit by the truth.''

UNDER MIDNIGHT

Possibly the most praised industrial band is Under Midnight; however, they do not consider themselves industrial. Frankie of Under Midnight says, ''We really view our music as post-industrial, because we have never heard any industrial music that was so dance, pop and thrash oriented all at once.'' The pop base of Under Midnight has made them very popular with the critics with a style that touches on everything from an industrial Soup Dragons to the rage of Ministry. The band itself also states influences of Nine Inch Nails, Prong and Corrosion of Conformity; however, the album is unique for the most part.

The heavy side of Under Midnight's album comes from Believer's Kurt Bachman, who laid down the guitar riffs. Frankie notes, ''Kurt has some whacked out guitar ideas to compliment the sheer speed and precision he usually gives to Believer's sound, and he was able to add a whole new world of sound to what we did.''

One fascinating aspect of the Under Midnight album is that it has a storyline. Frankie states, ''Using a storyline to get our thoughts across was a good way to paint a heavy picture and touch on some hard subjects and still make it approachable. We wanted this record to make Christians look at a few things differently and at the same time not be a hammer over the head for non-believers.'' The album considers the danger of technology moving too quickly and the negative results which could ensue. Frankie states, ''World events and modern computer technology are moving at such a high rate that it caused us to look at what is happening today, and where these things could lead us in the future.'' DB Allen adds, ''We are not doomsayers of the technology industry, but we do have a concern for how it is used and how it may be used in years to come.''

MORTAL

The first metal-oriented industrial band and possibly the most popular of the groups is Mortal. As with Under Midnight, Mortal attempts to incorporate pop melodies into an industrial metal style. Gyro of Mortal states, ''It has been too long that Christian artists have been trying to follow trends. Mortal wants to be unique by recording music that no one has ever heard before. More concretely, Mortal wants to be heavy, yet not to the exclusion of strong melody. We call our style 'Hyper Soul,' because it is heavy music built into a melodic pop song structure.''

Mortal's attempt at uniqueness was captured in the second album, when they utilized techno and hip-hop beats under their heavy thrashing guitars. Concerning the use of hip-hop, Gyro notes, ''We have always been into the hip-hop scene, but cannot do it because we cannot rap. Hip-hop has good elements, like the rhythm, the beats and the use of spoken word, and we wanted to use them.''

Helping to create a dark feel in the albums is their poetic approach to the lyrics. Gyro says, ''As long as I am writing, the songs will be poetic. I cannot escape from it. I have notebooks filled with my own poetry from which I write.''

Mortal has gone on a few tours, but most recently they toured with The Crucified, where the two groups played a number of clubs on the East Coast and in the Midwest. Gyro says, ''We played at clubs where bands like House of Pain and Pantera have played, and there were actually a lot of people there to see us. People had actually heard of us on the secular radio. WDRE, a major secular radio station in New York, actually voted 'LUSIS' the number one industrial album of the year for 1992 (Circle of Dust was voted number two). People come to our shows for the music, yet we and the Holy Ghost work on their hearts.''

BRAINCHILD

Brainchild, which is the musical collaboration of Scott Albert (Circle of Dust, formerly with Immortal) and Doug Mann (producer for Believer and Living Sacrifice), is by far the best industrial album in the market, but has sadly been overlooked in the Christian industry. Unlike Under Midnight and Mortal, Brainchild does not try to be a pop-oriented

Scott Albert (3rd from left) and Brainchild bassist Chris Donohue (far right) with Living Sacrifice's Bruce and DJ

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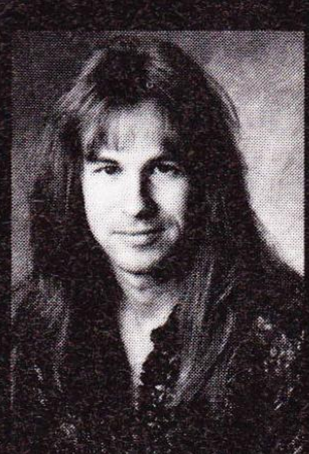

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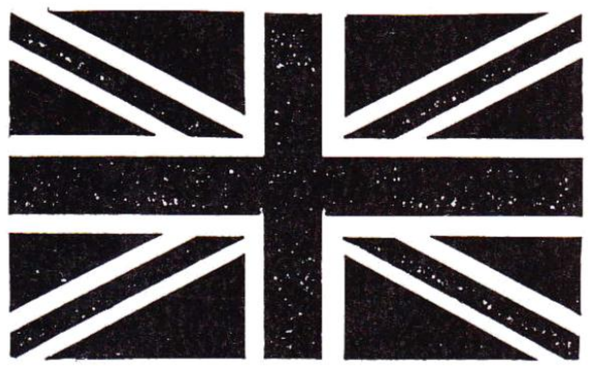

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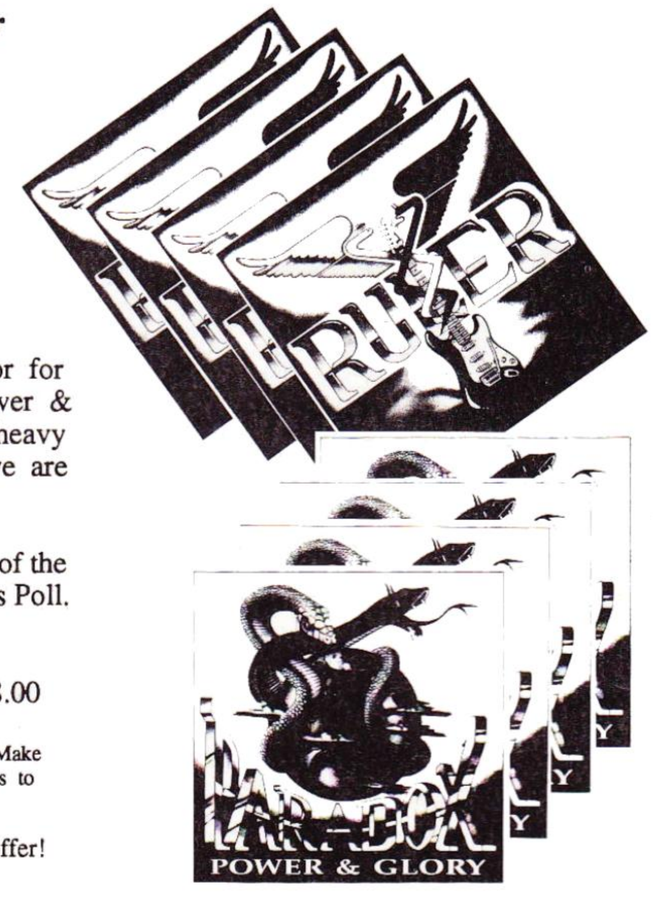

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dance thrash album which would appeal to the pop/melody-oriented Christian market. Rather, Brainchild is a pop-less, angry and aggressive industrial metal album filled with wild samples and cynicism, which is probably too early for the Christian industry to accept. However, Brainchild is right on time for the secular industry. The secular labels Caroline and Metal Blade are very interested in Brainchild, in addition to some interest from Interscope.

MTV has also shown interest in Brainchild, using fifty seconds of the song "**Pale Reflections**" as background music for a May episode of MTV Extreme Sports, which plans to use the album again. Furthermore, MTV wants to produce a video for "**Telltale Crime**" to be played on Headbanger's Ball. If R.E.X. agrees, MTV is giving the label a huge discount for doing the video.

With all the recent attention Brainchild is receiving, Scott Albert has gotten his band together and has been practicing for live shows. He notes, "We may be opening for KMFDM (Kill Mother Fornicating Depeche Mode, or something like that) this month in addition to many other opportunities to play shows around here in New York. At Cornerstone, I will be performing as Circle of Dust, but I will definitely play some Brainchild tunes."

The best concert opportunity for Brainchild, though, may lie in the future. Scott notes, "The singer of Prong actually got a hold of the CD and loved it. Prong, who is cutting a new album, wants Brainchild to open for them when they tour. It will be a while until we know for certain if we get the tour, but if we do, it will be an excellent break for us." Scott also notes, "Currently Dave Kindervater is booking our shows, but if we sign secular, we may actually have to move to a bigger booking agent."

When asked about all the mainstream exposure, Scott notes, "We really want to target the secular audience, but we are not trying to cut the Christian market off. Consider King's X. Though the band is not distributed into the Christian market, the band won a number of categories in the Heaven's Metal reader's poll. Though they are not in the local book store, kids still went out and got a tape. However, kids who are not into Christian music will not go in the local book store and buy an album. We want Brainchild in the secular record stores so non-Christians will buy it, but we also want the album in Christian bookstores so Christians will not have to go elsewhere to find it. Furthermore, concerning targeting the secular market, how many times are we going to regurgitate the same message and feed it to the same people? We want to get our message out to the people who need it."

If Brainchild is signed to a secular label, Scott says he will definitely remix and re-edit some of the songs. He would like to improve the album and use some more recent samples. He also notes, "I will fully re-work the song '**Prayers of a Dead Man**.' We ran out of time in the studio before we could get the song the way we wanted it. The song was not supposed to come out like it did, and it will not come out like it is if we are signed for mainstream distribution."

Currently, Scott Albert is working on a CD which will feature remixes and possibly a few new songs by Circle of Dust, Brainchild and Living Sacrifice. Scott notes, "The album is really running behind schedule and will not be out until late in the summer, but the

cont'd on page 22

What Asphalt Ballet Sez:

This issue our ''What So & So Sez'' column brings us to Virgin Records Artists Asphalt Ballet. Listen in as guitarist Danny Clarke shares from a roadside phone on the band's latest tour.

''What magazine do you write for?'' asks Danny.

**Heaven's Metal.

''Oh, I've heard of it,'' he says.

**Why don't you tell me a little bit about the new album?

''The name is 'PIGS.' It's kind of an attitude thing, you know, just a vibe. The CD booklet has everyone's picture, where their faces come out of the dark towards you, and on the front there's two pigs in a pen at a slaughter house. When you open that up, there's pigs being slaughtered and the back cover of the CD is a pork chop in the super market. It's the process of how things get chewed up, ground up and spit out.

''The first album was about different times in our lives, but almost every thing with the new album was written in a really short time and it has a feeling that's all kind of the same. It's got this dark kind of urgent grunge feeling, but it's not like the Seattle thing, though it's raw and a lot harder.

''One thing we told the producer all the way through was that we wanted guitars in your face, because thats what it is: two guitar players. It has a much harder guitar edge and more driving sound.''

**Why do you think the raw, live, ''What you see is what you get'' thing is so popular today? I mean, in the 70's there was glitter rock and polish, but now it's real big to just go for it.

''Nirvana just finished their new album in Minneapolis, and the whole thing cost 25 Grand. I think people don't want to buy Milli Vanilli records. Now the kids get into it and say they like your sound and the solo on this song or that song, and they like to come out and see exactly what it is that they heard when they bought the record. (There's) a need to be more real.

''Gary (former lead singer) left the band in the middle of the tour and we met with our manager and he gave us the plan: That we had three months to write for a new album and find a lead singer. By the time the bus got back to L.A. we had two songs written. One song made the album and the other one didn't. '**Anybody**' is a song on the new album about Gary leaving:

'''No fire works on the fourth of July,' because we were supposed to be in Detroit the day after Gary left the band. 'Only black clouds in the sky/You walked out on me.' It was a mutual thing. We had from July third to September to get back together, so we would not lose momentum. Our mananger was right, because that is what would've happened.

''Finally Tommy (Dean--current singer) came out to a show that we did for Pirate Radio in L.A.. There was a line of people down Sunset and he came and saw us and he said that day he wished he was in the band, and he joined the band. He definitely works well.''

It's cool to know that a situtation like that can be cool in the end. As a band, why do you guys write lyrics in the vein of a ''Daddy's Dyin'**,'' ''**Crash Diet**'' or ''**God Save The Children**,'' versus...

''Versus: 'Ooh baby, I can't live without you?'

**Right!

''I think we'd all rather die and have people stick hot leaded, molten lava in our eyes before we write those songs. Like I told you about that old band we were in--Mistreated: That was all Matt, the lead singer, liked. You hear stuff like that on the radio all the time, but it just wasn't us. It was like, 'Mary Jane, you're as fast as a midnight runaway train.' That's just not us.

''I used to live in Hollywood and I used to stay inside my apartment at night and I would hear gun shots and people screaming. It was almost like being in jail and, when you would go down the street the next day, you would see dead bodies on the streets, and all the people just kinda living right on Hollywood Boulevard. Have you ever been out to Hollywood?''

**Yeah.

''Then you know it's not like it is on 'Entertainment Tonight' or 'Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous,' you know. It's all junkies and stuff. That's what me and 'J' grew up with. We've been, like, doing this forever. It's not easy. There's a lot of rich rock and roll guys, but when you're still not there yet you see the other side of life; and we write about that. We write what we live and what we see around us--especially in Hollywood.''

**What keeps you from copping a totally bitter vibe instead? What gives you the hope in your lyrics, instead of glorifying the seedy side of life?

''Give me another year and maybe there won't be any hope!'' Danny laughs. ''I don't know. You know what they say: 'Where there's life there's hope.' In a way, you live and you see all the bad (bleep) going down, like people on drugs--even guys with money. They do the same thing. That's what the song '**Crash Diet**' is about. We wrote that one with Axl (Rose) back in '89. It's about how nobody is immune to that stuff--especially out here. You know, it's just so fast. You get to this level and people start coming up to you with bags of this and bags of that.

''Everybody has to live with stuff, but you just always hope it gets better. Even though you see all this stuff and it may not be that great and you don't have enough money to buy lunch that day, but still we're doing what we really want to do--and that's writing and playing together. When you're on tour everything is great, because you're going out and playing in front of people, and that's what bands like us live to do. Plus, there's always a chance that it will really happen. Hopefully, we will get to do this for a long time.''

**What are your thoughts on the after life or the spiritual realm?

''Hmm... I don't know, this life is hard enough. What do you think? Do you believe in the after life?

**Yeah. I guess I would be glad to call myself a follower of Jesus.

''You mean in that way...''

**Yeah, and with that I carry a whole set of beliefs about the after life.

''None of us have ever been real religious, but last month J's mother died; which is pretty sad, 'cause we were all really close to her. She would always make dinner over at their house and she was always taking care of everybody, so, it was someone who was close to everybody. That makes you think about that, because you're always so worried about your own problems from day to day that you don't think about it, I guess. None of us are really religious, but, I guess after that experience I can say at least I hope there's something.''

**It's kind of comforting to think so...

''It would be, yeah! But, you know, sometimes--especially when you're younger and you see a lot of bad (bleep) going down--you think, 'If there's a God, stuff like this wouldn't happen.' When you get older, you start to think about, 'What about when I die?'

''One song on our last album that I wrote is called '**Heaven Winds Blow**.' It's about an old man who meets whoever you think it is as he's lying in his bed dying.

'''I'm the Man that made the Heaven Above/I'm the Man that made the earth below.' So, it's like his final confrontation with the Man. I suppose that it could be anybody--depending on what religion you are. He's, like, getting ready to go over into the next life and God's showing the way. So, I guess deep down I do have a belief. We probably all do.

''You should listen to it and '**Daddy's Dyin**' on the new album. It's really based on a true story about a guy I know who got addicted to drugs and pain killers while he was in Vietnam. He came back and just never really kicked the habit and he has a son who pretty much got addicted. I guess it was the father's dying of drugs that got the kid off of drugs.

"Faith isn't something that always makes sense to you."

''The other song we're pretty proud of is '**God Save The Children**.' We dedicated that to the Children of the Night. We've done a lot of shows to raise money for them. Our very first video was '**Soul Survive**' and we did that in San Deigo and the place was packed. They had to pull out the seats so people could get in there and we donated the proceeds of that whole video to the Children of the Night. '**God Save The Children**' is about kids who get abused by their parents, mostly.

'''Mother may I/Yes son, I know it hurts/Mother may I/A scar for what it's worth/My life is hell/Hell is my home.' It's pretty intense!''

**Not everybody that is an artist takes that attitude. Do you know why you try to effect change or why you want to help somebody; versus just throwing words out there?

''I don't know about effecting change. I don't know why you wouldn't. I guess if you see that people abuse their kids; I don't know why you wouldn't want to bring attention to that and try to get something said. I don't think that we think we could change that or make it different, but I think that if enough people think about it and try to do something about it maybe it could change. It seems like you hear it more and more all the time. You can't turn on the radio without hearing someone talk about it: This kid was abused or that kid was beaten and killed...

''Whenever you take a writing course they always tell you to write about what you know, and you see it all the time in the papers or on the news. With the world and the way it's going, it just seems like it's getting '**Out of Hand**,' which may be the next single.

'''Rich man, poor man/It's all one plan/When the ground starts crumblin' where you stand/I believe the whole thing's out of hand.'''

**It's cool to see a band put insight into their words and say something worth saying.

''We're not Bob Dylan. You've got to make a choice between saying stuff that's totally silly and stuff that's serious. We kind of want to play our own stuff and write lryics that people can think about once in a while. Come to a show and have a good time, but be able to think about the lryics. We realize that we are nobody to tell other people what to do...but just to think about it. People start thinking that being really honest is what's inportant. Change comes from thought. Hey, thats a good lyric: 'Change comes from thought.'''

**It does. Getting back to one of things you mentioned about the guy in the song about Heaven on the first album... As far as the guy meeting whoever it is... What do you think about the statement that Jesus made about, ''I'm the only Way, I'm the way to the Father?'' Basically, what He is saying is that, ''I'm the only way--no and's, if's or but's. What do you think of His claims there?

''It's pretty hard! What about everybody else?''

**One way I've heard it put, was that Jesus was either a liar; He was either lying when He said that; or He was a lunitic--He's crazy--I mean, He said He was God; or He was really Lord, 'cause making those claims, like this guy in Waco right now. Everybody says he's wacked

out of his mind, because he's saying these things. He's either crazy or he's lying for some reason...

''Maybe He was just saying that the only way to make it in life is to do those things that are pretty much a part of any religion. You know, just the Golden Rule-type thing: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'''

**Have you ever really looked at a religious study or compared religions and tried to boil each one down to the bottomline and see if they were the same or different?

''No. I don't really know that much, but it seems to me like most of them are saying about the same thing, just a little different way.''

**Heaven's Metal is a kind of a specialty magazine in a lot of ways. It kind of covers the Christian heavy metal/hard rock gendre, but it's not limited to that. In every issue I interview people that don't fit under the banner that Stryper waved, and just kind of share what we're about and give a person a chance to share what they're about.

''We're not a Stryper that's for sure. Like I said, I don't think anybody in the band would call themselves religious at all, but we do think it's important for people to think about the way they treat each other and their kids. I don't if that makes it...

**It doesn't make you a religios band, but it's definitely touching on an important issue, because if we treat each other like crap, what do we have when it's over?

''I'll just say, 'It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice.'''

**Has everyone ever shared with you what they percieve to be the plan of Christianity and kind of laid it on the table and said, ''Here's what it's about; what do you think?''

''Not really, no.''

**Do you mind if I do that?

''Sure.''

**My intent is not to be pushy or blast you with anything; but, basically, where I'm coming from is that Christanity is different and that it laid out a list of rules, like ''Don't kill, don't hate, don't lie...and those list of rules, when you kind of balance who you are against those rules, everybody comes short. I believe that God came down in the flesh in the person of Jesus and He lived by every one of the rules like nobody else ever could and then He died; which, uh, I don't know if you've ever heard this before, but it's like He paid the price for the punishment we deserve and its like a free gift that we can take. Whereas Christianity does get a bad rap sometimes, all it really is is just Somebody giving you this free gift where now you can have...

''I've never heard it get a bad rap.''

**I have. Sometimes people get legalistic about it or make it seem like it's just a bunch of rules and regulations or, on the other hand, they just make it seem like it's a belief system or a philosophy: you either buy into the philosophy or you don't. But I kind of look at it as...going back to the claims of Christ--either it's true or it's not. If it's true, it's really radical: That this guy named Jesus is really the Creator of the universe and He lived on the earth for 33 years and now He's in Heaven and, because of Him, I can have a relationship with God and I can know my Creator and have all the screw ups and the messes I've made be forgiven; which is a great load off my shoulders. You know, to know that on Judgement Day I'm going to be up there and I'll realize all the guilt that I should be bearing, but I just realize that Jesus has it all on His back. It's a pretty heavy thing, but it definitely brings me a lot of happiness to know that, because of Somebody's gift, I get eternal life now and I don't have to earn it by following the rules. It kind of makes me want to be a good person now, because I know that I don't have to do it to get acceptance, because I know now that I'm accepted because of Someone else's gift. Anyway, I just wanted to share that and kind of see what you thought. I appreciate you giving me a chance...

''I think everybody pretty much knows the basics of it. Most people probably don't. You know, you probably figure that if you don't go to church all the time, then you can't...if you're not in, you're out. I don't know if that's true.''

**Did you have much exposure to it growing up?

''Not really, no.''

**It's really cool that you guys overcame a big hurdle with loosing a singer and coming back with an new album and everything. It's nice to see that.

''Well, you know, the four of us have been friends for a long time. It's kind of like what you were talking about. It's kind of a thing that's based on faith, and faith isn't something that always makes sense to you. It's not something you can prove everyday, but if you have it you can keep going. You have to have a little faith and trust and things happen. The record label let us stay in and our manager kept things going for us and we didn't even miss a beat. We kept goin.'''

**Do they ever let you ride the Virgin Airline Planes?

''Oh sure, yeah. All the time!''

**Are you kidding?

''Yeah. We're on some beat-up old bus now. The guys just pulled in now. I guess I better get going.''

**Well, it's been cool. I look forward to meeting up with you in Austin.

''Yeah, thanks for taking the time. Like I said, make sure you come out and check us out and we can talk some when we get to Austin.'' **HM**

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industrial continued:

album will be great. It will have about 16 songs on it.''

When asked why he did Brainchild when he already had Circle of Dust, Scott answered, ''When we cut Circle, Doug Mann (of R.E.X.) asked if I wanted to cut another project with him. Originally, the album was going to be keyboard oriented. However, as time went on, we decided to do a heavier album. The rest is history.''

Industrial music is probably the fastest developing style in the entire music industry. For the first time, the Christian industry is on the cutting edge with industrial bands breaking new ground in terms of style and receiving widespread attention for their talent. With many secular industrial bands attacking the church, the church has responded with industrial bands which, in turn, can show that the criticisms from secular bands come from a faulty mindset, while teaching them about the saving mind of Christ. The Christian music industry is giving the genre some real industrial strength truth. **HM**

METAL TRACKS

The latest industrial project from R.E.X., **Brainchild**, has been making some waves in the mainstream music world. Gil Colon, producer of MTV's "Extreme Sports," has asked R.E.X. for permission to feature Brainchild on Extreme Sports as extreme music to back extreme sports footage. Needless to say, R.E.X. graciously accepted. Beyond the flattery of being asked to be used for Extreme Sports, many MTV employees have asked for copies of the Brainchild "MINDWARP" CD in addition to hanging Brainchild posters in the MTV offices. MTV has also given R.E.X. a proposal to film a video for Brainchild. You can bet that one will get some airplay...

Ken Tamplin, whose new group will simply go under the moniker of "Tamplin," announces that his new album will be released on Benson Records in the Christian market and that a few secular companies have entered into serious talks with him about mainstream distribution (so serious that Ken has one contract in his hand already). Dean Castronova (formerly of Bad English and current drummer for Hardline), Pat Jenson (Hardline) and Joey Taffolla will be joining Ken live in Europe for an upcoming show called the "Dino Festival," where they'll play in front of 80,000 people.

Neon Cross is reforming for a new album on Patriot Records. They are tracking in the studio as this issue goes to press.

Die Happy is seeing its members branch out a bit. **Larry Farkas** and bassist **Greg Chaisson** have started work on another band's project (the ex-vocalist for **Accept**). Die Happy's live EP includes three acoustic and three electric tunes.

Holy Soldier is alive and well with **Michael Cutting** back on guitar; **Eric Wayne**, who sang for the band on its 1990 tour on vocals; and, of course, **Scott Soderstrom** on guitar, **Terry Russell** on drums and **Andy Robbins** on bass. **Steven Patrick** and **Jamie Cramer** both left the band to fulfill marital responsibilities. The band is playing several dates across the US this spring, including the Ichthus Festival in Lexington, Kentucky. Off Myrrh Records, the band is currently shopping for a new label.

On May 10th the Dutch death/ thrash metallers **Decision-D** will enter the Delta Studio near Hamburg to record their second album. The 8-song release will be titled "MORATORIA." Some of the song titles are: "**Social Darkness**," "**Statue of Deliberation**," "**Slaughterslize Atmosphere**," "**Birth of Cadaver**," "**Bow Down in Suffocation**" and "**Devastation of a Nation**." This release shall be totally different from the band's debut album. The death/thrash/doom/techno style will contain some Jazz and even Latin influences, which causes some innovating and groovy effects. The production, handled by Ekkehardt Strauss, will also be much heavier than on the debut. Look for the release in July. The band's management is organizing the God's Pleasure Thrash Festival on June 5th, which will feature **Veni Domine**, **Betrayal**, **Decision-D** and possibly **Mortification** and **Red Ink**.

Former **Violet Burning** guitarist **Shawn Tubbs** has signed his new band, **Death Defying Spring**, to New Breed Music. Shawn plays (awesome!) guitar, sings and writes music. His band, which includes local musicians Pierre Martin on bass and Randy Carr on drums, will be in the studio in April and May recording their debut album. The music has been described as hard rock reminiscent of the Seattle sound.

King's X is writing material for its next album, which will be produced by Bruce Fairbairn, who produced the new Aerosmith and is currently doing the next Pearl Jam record. Look for album number five from King's X around September. **The Galactic Cowboys** new album, "SPACE IN YOUR FACE," was produced by Sam Taylor and is due out this month. The band will begin touring for a few weeks in late May with Dream Theater.

X-Sinner is still alive and giggin.' Currently they're doing some clubs in and around L.A., as well as a date in Longview, Texas.

Z-TV has changed its name to Z Music and has launched its television network as of March 1st. The first video aired... No, it wasn't "**Raise The Chalice**" by Mortification; it was "**The Great Adventure**" by Stephen Curtis Chapman. Oh well, the network is planning on having a regular metal format and request-only formats, so we'll have some Christian hard rock videos broadcasting soon. Those with satellite dishes can pick up the network from transponder 15 on satellite Galaxy 1 (as of April 1st) and satellite Satcom C4 initially. After only one month on the air, Z Music is now available in more than two million cable households in more than 100 cable systems and more than two million broadcast households. To get Z Music on your local cable system, simply write or call your local cable company and tell 'em you want Z Music. Speaking of Christian metal videos, we're still working on the Heaven's Metal video magazine. You'll definitely be made aware when it comes out. I hope to have the first one done by sometime this summer, Lord willing.

The Daniel Band is having a reunion concert with the original band line up on April 17th in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

Quinton Gibson and **Brad Beckey** announce some changes, billing themselves as a new 2-man pop/rock band. A new album, called "MY GENERATION," is due out in mid-June. The band has also signed up with Carpe Diem Management and will be taking a trip to Central America late this month, performing in Sal Salvador and Guatemala City.

A.R.T. Records, who can be contacted at: 4119 N. State Rd. 7, Suite #1203, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33319; announce "35 inches of death" (five 7" vinyl releases), with: **Drop Dead**'s "**March of Empire**;" **Final Judgement**'s "**Drastic Dose of Reality**;" **Godhead**'s EP; **Consecrator**'s "**Vision Ignored**" and **Final Prophecy**'s EP.

The latest news on **Dry Bones** is that **Bryan Young** has replaced **Chris Mlain** on bass and **Rob Wolfe** replaced **Erik Burea** on vocals and rhythm guitar. Rob is moving to Concord, New Hampshire to be with the Bones posse. Drummer **Chris** and wife **Rhonda Wible** expect another addition to their family in a few months. Bryan is going to get married to Erin Jenkins soon. Look for a possible Dry Bones contest in the next issue.

Living Sacrifice will be playing Cornerstone again this year, as well as playing about two month's worth of dates starting in California and working their way around the country before starting work on their third album.

Hot Pink Turtle will have begun working on their debut album on R.E.X. while this issue goes to press. It will be named none other than the obvious: "TICKLEWIGGLEJIGGLEPICKLE."

Pesado is a new thrash death metal zine from Holland. Interested bands, readers can send info to: Pesado, p/a Jorrit Postma, Grovestins 79, 7608 Hl, Almelo. Holland.

Eternity, reviewed in HM #40, corrects its address. It is: Rt. 1, Box 232, Hayti MO 63851. This tape goes for $7, not the $9 reported.

Webworks is an arts group that

Believer l-r: Scott Laird, Jim Winters (bass), Joe Duab, Kurt Bachman (Photo by Barb Laird)

networks interested poets, artists and bands, as well as putting out projects and a publications. Their motto is ''A time whose idea has come.'' A cool group supporting such writers as Steve Scott, Gord Wilson and maybe you! For further info, write: 1225 E. Sunset Dr, #512, Bellingham WA 98226-3529.

You may have heard the rumors...That's right (horror of horrors): **Kurt Bachman** and **Joey Daub** have gotten haircuts--proving that hair is not what makes the band; great music is. Guitarist **Dave Baddorf** and bassist **Wyatt Robertson** are out and in are violinist **Scott Baird** and bassist **Jim Winters**. Look for the band's new album, ''DIMENSIONS,'' late this month and a feature article on the band in the next issue of HM. ''DIMENSIONS'' is apparently based entirely on Christian apologetics and challenges such world views as Freudism, agnosticism and atheism. Kurt explains what has influenced the lyrics: ''Geisler's Christian Apologetics and Ross' Fingerprint of God have been big influences in my life over the past year and a half. Outside of the Bible, these books have helped me handle different types of situations that have occurred and witness to different kinds of people, whether they be atheists, agnostic or whatever. Issues like drugs and the environment have been covered over and over again. These are important issues, however, we wanted to be original in our lyrical and musical content; and, since Christian apologetics has been such an influence on us, it's only natural that it spill over into our writing.''

Siloam is going to be going back on the road in June with the first leg of their upcoming world tour, starting in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. They will break between mid-July and mid-August in order to complete their second album (due out in the fall). Siloam will then go back to cover most of the States, before going to Europe and Australia early next year. For more info and concert dates in your area, contact their booking agent: The Jamm Factory, (Phone/Fax) 604-261-0841.

Arcade Music's new release, ''ROCK THE FLOCK,'' is a youth praise album featuring **Australia's Totally Radical Band**. The first volume of these albums, originally titled, ''KHOOL PRAIZE,'' has been re-issued and re-titled ''AWESOME IN POWER,'' and includes a guest appearance by **Darrell Mansfield**. Darrell has a new album on Asaph called ''GIVE YOUR BLUES TO HIM.''

A band called **Kids X** (...come on, guys, change your name!) are currently touring with **The Brave**. The band is from England and has quite a background, as Phil King, the band's leader was once a member of The Sex Pistols before his conversion. Look for the band's album this month on Moonlite Music Promotions. Sure to face ridicule for their name's likeness to King's X, maybe the band should return to one of its earlier monikers: The Kidz...

Uthanda's video, ''**Shadow Play**,'' debuted on CCM TV recently. It is available as a $1.99 retail package at your local Christian bookstore. It's really good.

Guardian has a new retail video package too. It's called ''STREETS OF FIRE'' and is available for $4.98, along with a real cool Guardian calendar with the purchase of ''MIRACLE MILE.'' The calendar has some very funny and very rare shots of the guys growing up and also wearing armor in the band Fusion.

Lust Control is writing new material for its next album.

The Crucified's next album may not arrive as soon as expected. Pray for 'em. This band is one of the hottest acts goin' today.

Eddie Elgaro, known as ''El Gato,'' has finished his new skate video, called ''SAVED AND DANGEROUS,'' which features music by The Crucified, **Scapegoat**, and **Crystavox**. These videos can be purchased at Eddie's skate clinics and demonstrations, which will be part of many festivals this summer, like Cornerstone.

Killed By Cain just finished up in the studio with Dale Thompson. Along with production of the self-titled debut album, Dale is making a vocal appearance on the introduction entitled ''**Intro To Hypocrisy**.'' This short piece showcases guitarist **Tony Bowling** tuning down until the guitar strings are almost flapping off the neck and then playing a Jaws-like rhythm with the tape machine being sped up, while Dale makes a Martin Luther King Jr. type speech addressing hypocrisy in the world and the church. The intro leads up to the first track, ''**Burn The Church**,'' taken from 1 Corinthians 3.

Here's a line up for Cornerstone this year: Thursday (July 1st) has **Mercy** playing in the afternoon, **Veil** and **Circle of Dust** and **Brainchild** playing early evening encores (6 to 7:30) and **Cauzin' efekt**, **Rich Mullins & The Ragamuffin Band**, **Vector** and **Believer** playing the mainstage (with the last act, Believer, playing late into the night as a ''mainstage evening encore'' lasting until around 2 am); Friday has **d.b.d. & XL** and **The Dynamic Twins** in the afternoon, **Over The Rhine** and **Crashdog** playing early evening, and

Vigilantes of Love, **REZ**, **Bride** and **The Crucified** on the main stage; Saturday features **Living Sacrifice** and **Deliverance** in the afternoon, **Tourniquet** and **Native Son** in the evening and **Ashley Cleveland**, **Charlie Peacock**, **Newsboys** and **Undercover** on the main stage; Sunday has **John Austin Band**, **Ben Okafor** in the afternoon, **P.I.D.** and **Mortal** in the evening, and **Daniel Amos**, **Degarmo & Key**, **Larry Howard** and **L.S.U.** on the main stage.

The ''Compassion Stage'' features **Billy Crockett**, **Randy Stonehill**, **Julie Miller**, **Bob Bennett**, **Patsy Moore**, **Rick & Linda Elias**, **Poorhouse** and **The Crossing** all playing through the long weekend. ''The Gallery'' also features some excellent talent, including: **Ben Okafor**, **Sam Hill**, **Phil Keaggy**, **Jeff Johnson & The Jess 55 Theater/Dance Troupe**, and **The Electrics**.

Your faithful Heaven's Metal editor was present at part of the festivities at this year's GMA (Gospel Music Association) Week. Besides numerous luncheons sponsored by record companies and a convention-style exhibit hall, there were tons of mini-concerts to showcase the talent present. This year saw a good representation of the sound we call ''heavy music.'' **20/20 Blind**, from Houston, Texas, played two showcases, one of which was at a club called The Abyss. This place was rented out by Marty Bush, who publishes Visions of Gray and also promotes the Inner Seeds Festival in Atlanta. He got several bands to come together to form a ''Schmooze Aid'' stage, where signed bands like **Asight Unseen** could play as could groups like Michigan's **Lost Tribe** or 20/20 Blind. Lost Tribe displayed a Seattle-influenced sound (and fashion--counting at least two flannel shirts on stage) with plenty of funky 'n' chunky low end and catchy riffs. Asight Unseen's set was amazing. It will be great for the band to get out more, because seeing this band live makes a fan out of ya--no kidding. One of the funny tricks used this evening was using a paper cup with the bottom torn out as a megaphone-like vocal tool. Guitarist **Derek Bell** seemed on the edge of control most of the night, wailing away as if this gig really mattered. Asight Unseen has got that little extra something that makes a band stick.

The most disappointing moment of the week came during the **Noisy Little Sunbeams**' set at the Benson luncheon. I was really looking forward to this short set consisting of a medley of tunes from the band's debut album, which I really have grown to like. I'm afraid the band really failed to live up to its studio performance on this occasion. Backing tapes were used for every chorus, which, of course sounded very melodic, but turned down in the mix instead of up. The live vocal mix was decidedly louder, which, coupled with Dale Bray's shouting rap delivery, created such a contrast that it was embarrassing to watch. Two giant video screens were on each side of the stage, which made things worse, since it blew up the image of Dale lip-synching to a multi-voice chorus that was pumping out at whisper level. Two rap dancers, which looked like the guys in True 4 U, were on stage to liven things up, but nothing could save this poor set, which even included an uninspiring rendition of ''**Shout**.''

Undercover and **The 77's** both put in powerful performances on ''WAL Night,'' which showcased the bands on the Word Associated Labels (ie. Wonderland, Brainstorm and Pakaderm). **Adam Again**, **The Stand** and **The Brave** also played on this bill. It was a hot night. The next night, ''Beatles Night''...er, uh, I mean ''Rock Night,'' was awesome. **The Kry** opened the night with a very cool Bryan Adams-like sound. Their music covers a lot of ground in the whole commercial rock radio format. **Dakoda** was next, who I'd heard was a hot new Myrrh band with an alternative sound and a female lead vocalist. After about three tunes the band got rolling and the crowd was into it--moshing with abandon. Dakoda pulls several influences, including a throwback to the new wave of the early 80's, cowpunk, and the alternative vibe of today. The band's guitarist--a professional surfer who refuses to move to Nashville, because it's too far from the ocean--is obviously the band's leader and musical catalyst. He's all over the stage and fretboard, causing lots of sweat under his wool beanie cap. The band decided to roll into a fun version of ''**Eight Days A Week**,'' which maybe inspired the next band, **Pray For Rain** to cover ''**Help**.''

Pray For Rain used lots of vocal harmonies and Rush-like jazzy guitar leads for its pop-oriented music. The band's big single, ''**Do You Know What Love Is**,'' featured the ole torn paper cup trick for the vocal intro. Remember Elim Hall? Pray For Rain dives into shades of their progressive pop rock stylings.

The Prayer Chain was really impressive. Can I say they blew me away? Maybe not, but the band smoked. They sure have changed a lot since I last saw them in Redlands, California in 1991. Now the bands sports a decidedly heavier sound reminiscent of Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. Vocalist **Tim Tabor** pours a bit of passion into his performances, which was evident on the tune ''**Dig Dug**,'' where he cried, ''I'm just like the rest, I need to put my fingers in Your wrist''--reminding me of one of Michael Knott's inspired performances. At one point Tim dropped the mic to jump into the crowd and mosh with 'em. The band achieved that level where they became one with the audience in energy levels.

Bride closed things off at Rock Night with another fine crunchin' loud set. During the breakdown of ''**Hired Gun**,'' Dale and band went into the trippy Led Zeppelin bridge of ''**In My Time Of Dyin'**,'' as well as showing glimpses of the rhythmic changes in ''**Whole Lotta Love**.'' One real funny moment came when Dale ad-libbed during ''**Everybody Knows My Name**. Instead of singing, ''Everybody sees the gun,'' he sang, ''I wish I could sing like Les Carlsen.''

A new church has started in San Antonio that caters to rockers (sort of modeled after Sanctuary). Those interested may call (210) 340-9052 for more info.

Bob Carlisle, former vocalist for **The Allies**, has a solo album coming out on Sparrow Records on June 14th. A powerful vocalist ideally suited for the blues hard rock showcased on ''A LONG WAY FROM PARADISE,'' bets are being taken that this one will be sweet and poppy. We'll see...

The ''BREAKAWAY PRAISE 2'' album includes the vocals of **Scott Wenzel** of **Whitecross**, who had this to say, ''I thank the Lord for the opportunity to be involved in such an excellent praise project. The Lord inhabits the praises of His people!''

Oblation is a smokin' hot death metal band from Dallas that has released a controversial video addressing the issue of abortion. It's called ''**Dead Unborn**'' and features killer shots of the band members, which spin around the room and various locations. A girl holds her head and a phone book, looking up the phone number for abortion alternatives; a doctor in a surgical outfit stares at the camera with blood all over his gloves. I've always wanted to see a band use this shocking image. The video is currently being aired on ''Dallas Music Videos,'' a cable access show in Dallas, and is being sold in Dallas record stores. Look for a short interview and this video to show up on the first Heaven's Metal Video Magazine. In an interview for ''Dallas Music Videos,'' vocalist and rhythm guitarist Mitch Reese commented that, ''People think abortion is some clean, medical procedure. It's not. It's a very horrible and violent thing.'' Kathy Blaylock, producer of the show, said, ''The video is great...it is done very

tastefully.'' Oblation plans to record a demo this summer and then will seek a record deal. For more info on this hot band, write: Reese Management, 14232 Marsh Lane, Suite 143, Dallas TX 75234.

Mortal Enemy has broken up. Members Chris and John are moving to Austin, Texas to form a new band; while Geoff and Brent are currently playing together in California. ''We would like to encourage all of you to know your Creator more intimately,'' says the band, ''and not be so wrapped up in bands and music. These are all beautiful ministries and wonderful gifts from God, but many of us are guilty of letting them take the place of God in our lives and think that if we listen to Christian music and go to church every Sunday that we will lead comfortable and blessed lives. Not true. There has never been a falser twist to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We encourage you all to find your calling and not to dwell so much on comfort and earthly prosperity. We are all guilty of this, especially we, the members of Mortal Enemy.''

Royal Anguish has a new bassist, **Paul Mattox**, and is going after a new sound. ''Our writing style is changing with every song written. Instead of going for songs that are all-out grind and blast speeds, we will use them as a tool to create the best music that we can. Our song structures are slightly more commercially oriented, with a few more hooks and a lot more maturity than before. Some of our newer songs are very slow, trudging and doomy, unlike our previous material. Our newer material combines influences from thrash, commercial rock, death and classical guitar, yet it still is just as deserving of the ''grind'' or ''death'' label as our earlier material.'' Write Royal Anguish at: PO Box 7135, Boca Raton FL 33431.

Kemper Crabb reports that **Atomic Opera** was signed to Spirit Records, a division of Warner.

Mega and MLC International are planning a Ken Tamplin european tour for May and June; a **Mortification** tour in January '94 (possibly with another Christian speed metal band); and they just finished a REZ European tour.

Petra teamed up with Chicago Bear legend **Mike Singletary** for a sold-out show at the 16,000 seater Rosemont Horizon, sponsored by Youth for Christ.

Bride was chosen to play at a huge mainstream music convention called ''South By Southwest,'' but were previously scheduled to play in Holland. Too bad about the conflict, because over 4,000 people and record company people from all over the world descend upon Austin, Texas for this week-long convention. Bride also appeared on the latest **D.O.C.** album, ''PULLIN' NO PUNCHES,'' where they do a new hard rockin' and rappin' cover of ''**God Gave Rock 'N' Roll To You**,'' which was filmed for a video too. It's pretty cool, with lots of shots of Bride stirring up the heavy grooves in an old deserted cotton mill in Nashville and the D.O.C. boys gettin' after it. The rest of their album, unfortunately, doesn't have any more of this great hard rock mixture.

"Is this really for me?" says Dale

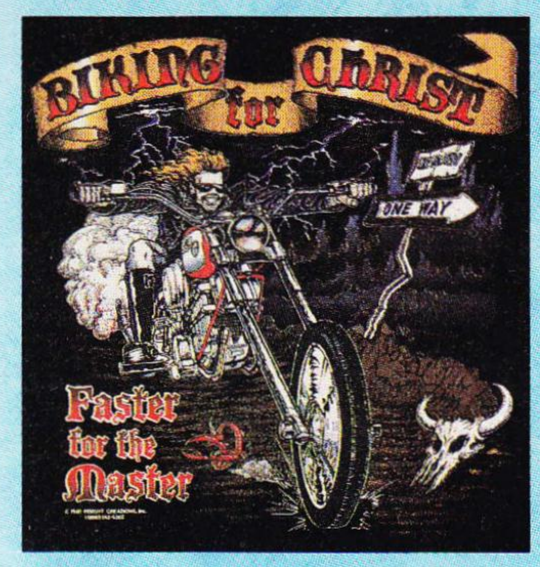
Bride were happy recipients of the Dove Award for ''Metal Recorded Song of the Year'' for ''**Rattlesnake**.'' The four other songs nominated were: ''**Hired Gun**'' by this popular Kentucky quartet; ''**Crutch**'' by **Applehead**; ''**Devotion**'' by **Undercover** and ''**Last Train**'' by **Holy Soldier**.

Glenn Kaiser of **REZ** is finally releasing the praise and worship album he's been working on for years. It'll be called ''ALL MY DAYS'' and will be out very soon on Grrr recordS. ''**In Your Arms**'' is the latest REZ single from the XX Years live album and it's got a cool story behind it: Glenn and Wendi have also been married for XX years. For further insight and edification, Wendi shares the following story about her life with Glenn and REZ:

''During a prayer before Glenn and his groomsmen walked down our matrimonial aisle, my brother John (future drummer for REZ) had a vision of two steel bars and a heavenly hand squeezing them into one. It is still my personal mystery that from the heart of a confused and frightened 19 year old girl (me) that God could see usable, strong and tempered metal.

''Excepting salvation, His greatest gift to me was another young and unrefined 19 year old. I need the bedrock stability of a man of God to heal my wounded heart. Even during out courtship, I realized that Glenn was a man consumed by his devotion to God. Humorously, this was obvious in his correspondence with me. He would end his letters with, 'I love you in the Lord, sister.' I asked myself, 'Does he love me as a future wife, or am I only his sister in the Lord?' It never occurred to him that this endearment would be misleading, as he viewed his own love as insufficient to express his entire heart towards me. Jesus Christ was foremost in his mind even in romantic matters. It is not every couple who can say that they watched a Billy Graham Crusade on their honeymoon night! Yes, Glenn is definitely a character...

''While sitting on a Michigan hillside in 1972, Glenn passionately shared what he believed God had shown him to be our future. As a band, we would play heavy rock music with a distinctive message of grace. The traditional church would largely condemn and misunderstand the music, but hundreds and even thousands would come to Jesus Christ through our songs and concerts. Glenn went on to say that we would travel all over the world and perform before thousands; we would make numerous recordings and be used to



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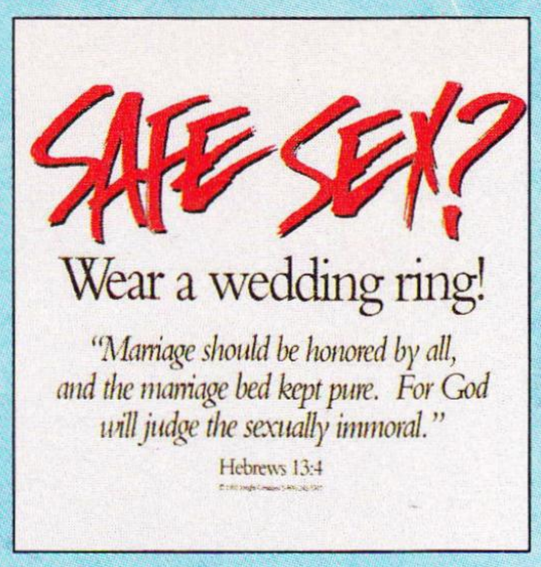

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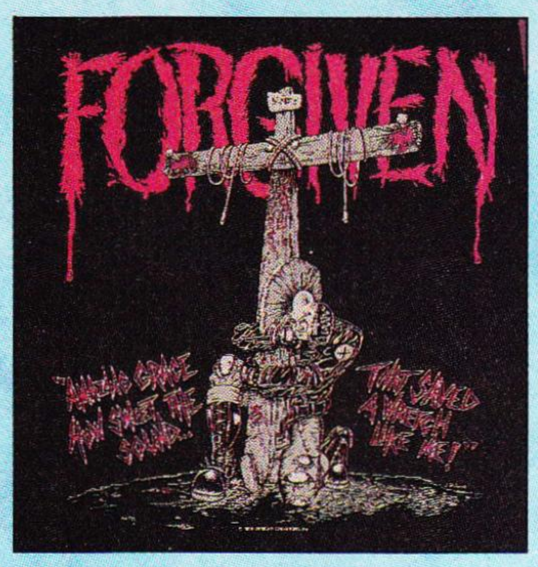

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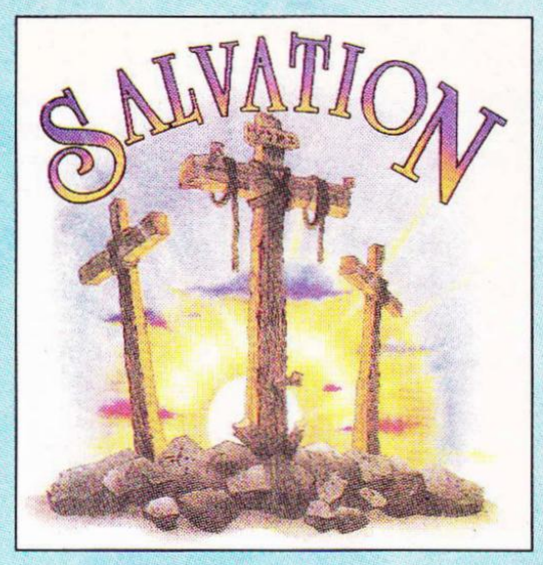

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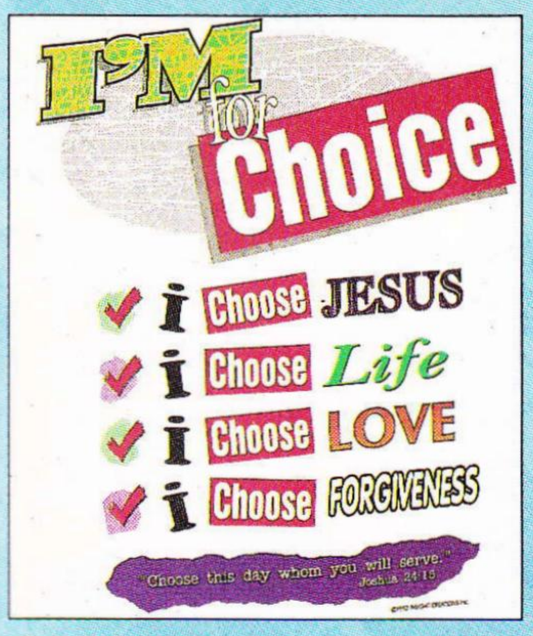

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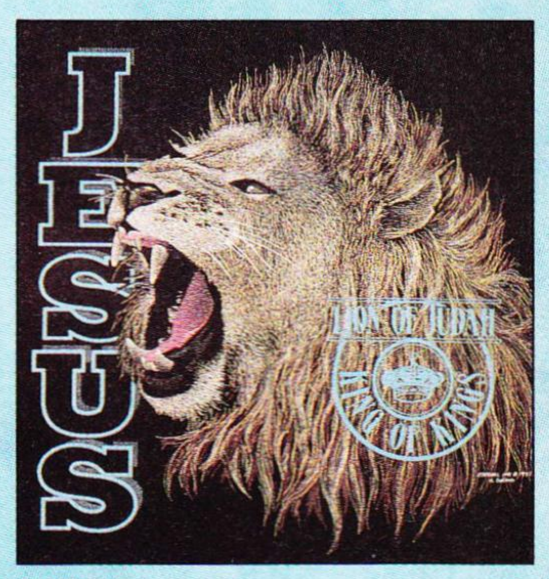

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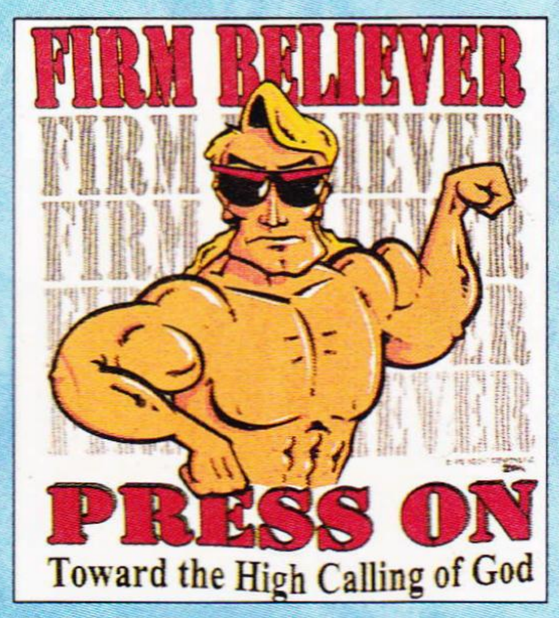

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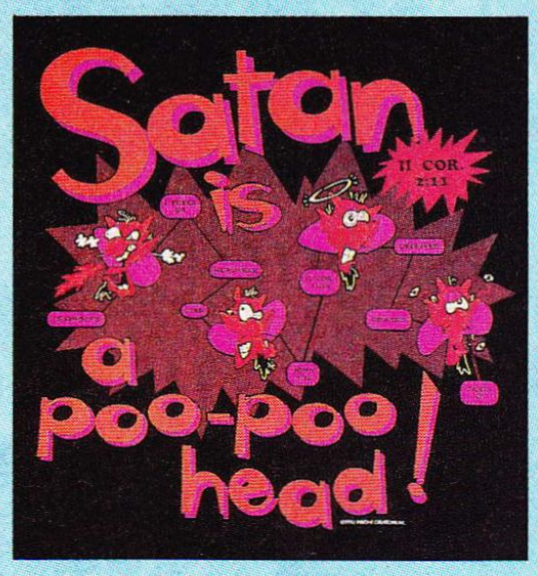

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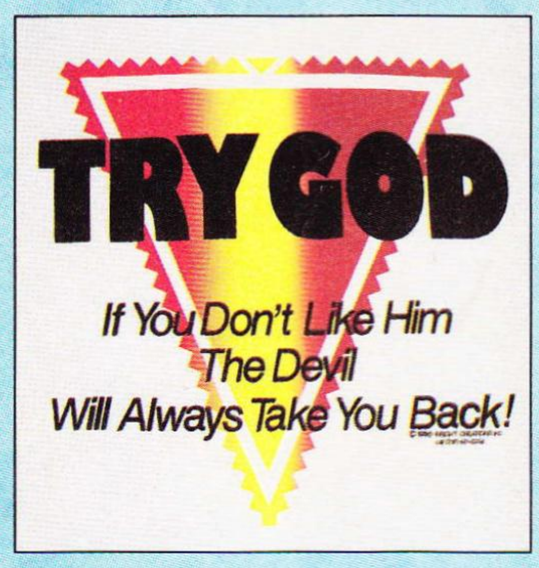

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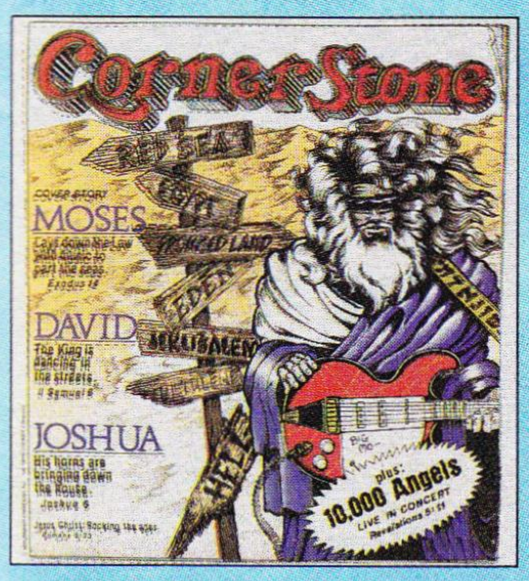

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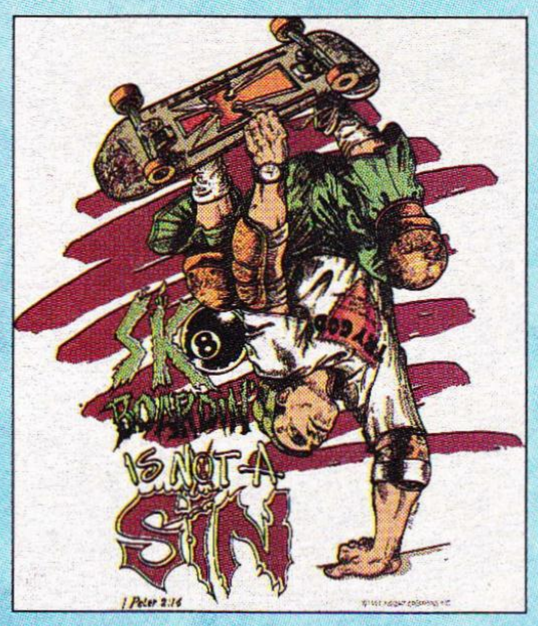

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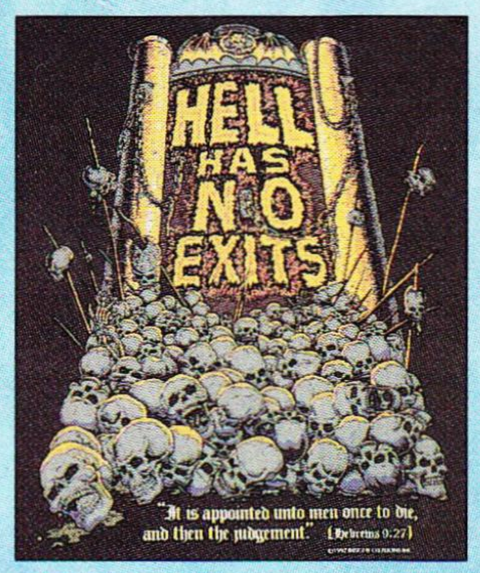

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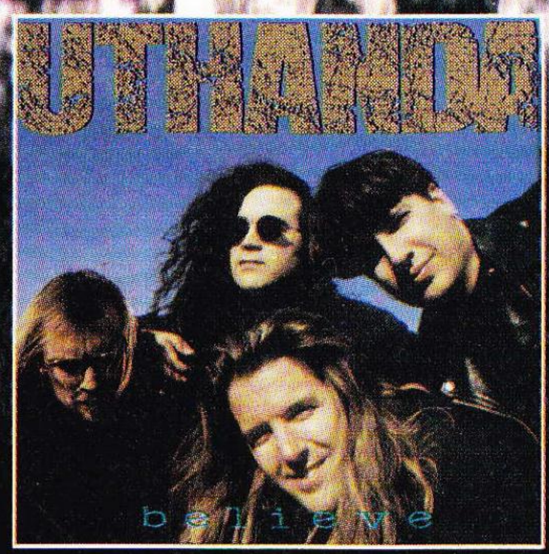

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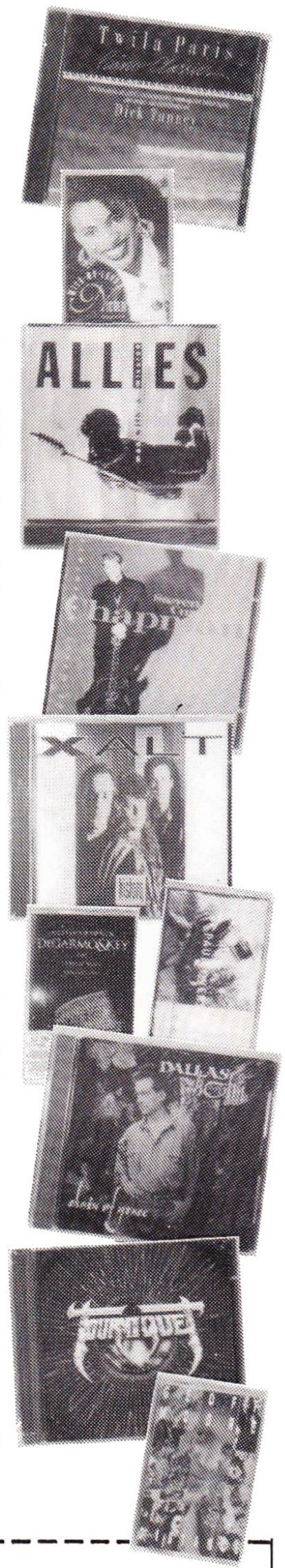

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change the 'rules' concerning Christian musical styles and ministry. This seemed like a high-powered fantasy from the imaginings of a teenage musician. I only kept on knitting during Glenn's discourse, and responded with and unconvinced, 'Yes, dear, I see. How nice.'

''Later, traveling from concert to concert in a big red school bus with 'JESUS' painted on the side, and pooling our pennies to buy canned tuna for a sandwich dinner, Glenn's prophetic dream seemed to have taken an unusual path to fulfillment. I realized then that I was only a vagabond on God's bus, patiently riding to an unknown but planned future. God did not let us see further down the road than each day's mileage. Our early tours were faith outreaches financed by obedience and perhaps only the money to reach our first scheduled concert. We literally lived day to day with only our young faith for tomorrow. We were making memories with all the wives, children, pets and young disciples loaded on the bus, leaving for weeks of concerts, adventures and miracles.

''I wasn't always 'with the program,' and my fellow wayfarers can tell of times when Glenn would stop me dead in my 'fleshly' tracks to repeat a 'Kaiz special'--an out-loud prayer of repentance--as we rode with everyone on the bus! (anyone who has attended a REZ night knows that Glenn is famous for his looooong repeat-after-me prayers) Often, Glenn would not be convinced of my sincerity until I raised my arms and vocally gave thanks to the Lord. I was definitely the foremost lamb of God's flock in Glenn's pastoral care, and he took his responsibilities very seriously.

''We would often camp out with the whole kit and caboodle of us between concerts and we shared many a church basement together while touring. We have played at homecoming dances (I can still see the bewildered faces of jocks and their girls trying to dance to '**Quite Enough**'), beach boardwalks, church revivals, a hashish bar, elegant civic halls and large music festivals. These experiences have forged the strength in our relationship and our songs. Now, after twenty amazing years together, I know that no matter what the venue or the circumstance, I'll be in His arms tonight. What a gift He gave to me. Thank you, Glenn. Thank You, Jesus.''

The Book of Axe is an ''air-band'' drama outreach that started as a goofy idea and has blossomed into a full-blown evangelistic rock musical that's one hour long. They will be playing in and around Florida this summer, as well as Atlanta Fest. For more info, call (904) 642-9410.

Zuriel has a new drummer in **Jerry Walters**.

The Second Annual International Festival of the Arts, originally scheduled for this month, has been rescheduled for a later date due to the fact that the Communists had forced the Democratic government of Bulgaria to resign, meaning that all the previous governmental contacts were now out of power.

Electrik is back in action in and around Hollywood, according to their recent newsletter.

Cornerstone Press is publishing a collection of essays given at the Art Rageous seminar at Cornerstone. Here is a relevant excerpt from a lecture delivered by Steve Scott, called ''Like a House on Fire.''

''Someone raised the question of ccm-contemporary Christian culture and its categories of the 'secular' and 'sacred.' I am of the opinion, having glanced over what amounts to a 'Christian industry' in the popular media, that the terms 'sacred' and 'secular' have more to do with where your record will be slotted in a record store, and less to do with any enduring spiritual and moral values...regardless of what the salesmen for this mountain of product might try to tell you. I believe these categories are kept alive pretty much for the purposes of tapping into the reservoir of the Born-Again Buck.

''It is possible, in my opinion, to build a 'grass-roots/alternative' support base while trying to sell what you do to other Christians. It is possible, but we must proceed with caution for two reasons. We must firstly keep in mind that in a 'post-Christian' culture like ours (as opposed to the other historical eras surrounding the icons, mystery plays, and so forth). The 'Christian marketplace' is simply part of the real world we are trying to reach out to, or into, with our art. Regardless of the rhetoric, it is a business. Don't be seduced.

''Also, keep in mind that underneath all the labels, slipshod categorizations, demographic projections, sacred hype, and born-again hucksterism, there are human beings--people--hungry and hurting for something. Your art form could be what they need, regardless of how they choose to categorize it. And let us remember that the 'Christian marketplace' is simply one more symptom of a less-than-perfect world. Pretending it does not exist, or laughing about it in our little 'hipper than thou' cliques is not going to make it go away. Making your work available for those 'who have ears to hear' is not the same as cynically exploiting the Christian community and its fears.''

For info, write: Cornerstone Press, 939 West Wilson Ave, Suite 202C, Chicago, IL 60640.

Metal TV is a cable access syndicated video show, which is open to airing Christian bands with good videos. Contact Oz Gonzalez at: PO Box 34913, San Antonio TX 78265.

Bands wanting South African distribution may contact J.C. Roxx at: PO Box 1174, Oakdale, 7534, South Africa.

Unsigned bands who want a chance at some good exposure and some good advice on their music ought to send their demo tape to Screamer Magazine. This secular magazine has a section called ''Demo-Lition,'' where record industry A&R reps review some of the tapes that come in. So, if chosen you get your photo in a national secular metal magazine, a review of your product and advice on how to improve, as well as some real feedback from some of the very people you're trying to impress. Send your tapes, bios & photos to: Demo-Lition c/o Screamer Magazine, 205 South Broadway, Suite 922, Los Angeles CA 90012. **HM**

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Concert Reviews

Jonathan (Photo by Michael Mullaghy)

NOVELLA

Via the efforts of local promoter Chex Productions, February 11th brought part of Novella into New York City. Lead vocalist Jonathan Pagano and guitarist Derek Jan delivered a solid ''Unplugged'' set at the Hosanna Fellowship Church.

Located in the heart of Spanish Harlem, the church was a seemingly unlikely spot for a hard rock performance. However, that did nothing to spoil the audience enthusiasm. Besides, Derek was not totally out of place-he spent a portion of his childhood in Puerto Rico and speaks fluent Spanish.

Two local acts warmed up the crowd. The Hosanna Praise and Worship Crew (the Hosanna Fellowship ''House Band'') got the evening rolling with a moving set of Latin flavored praise and worship music. Rap trio Joyful Noise followed with a short set that showed high potential, but low polish. Both acts were welcome openers, though, since a mix of contemporary styles was able to be presented.

The straightforward set from Jonathan and Derek was fine in musical form. Jonathan possesses a clear and powerful voice that never once faltered. Derek, meanwhile, provided nimble fretwork, despite a bout with the flu. Scaled down--at the most Jonathan added additional guitar work--the material did not lose any of its intensity. Tunes from both albums, ''ONE BIG SKY'' and ''A LIQUID EARTH,'' were featured.

The opener was an effective reading of ''A LIQUID EARTH'' opener, ''**Story**.'' This prepared the way for equally impassioned readings of ''**Lay It On Me**,'' ''**Fire In The House**'' and ''**Bad Place**.'' ''**Right In The Middle**'' and ''**Colour Of Love**'' stood out as set highlights, while ''**Give Me Love**'' served as a fitting close.

Unfortunately, the stage presence tended towards lukewarm. Of the two, Derek--the one sick with the flu--was the most engaging. He showed himself to be an open and witty personality, in contrast to the more aloof and posture-oriented Jonathan. The banter between songs was a tad uninspired and never approached Christian specifics. While the latter is not a condemnation, shared personal insight does expand the edification and encouragement of a musical piece for a listener.

Novella, or at least these two representatives, definitely have the looks and musical chops to cut a path in the hard rock genre--Christian or ''secular''--yet it was surprising that their convictions were not given an equal amount of limelight.

--Robert Mineo

TOUR DATES

These dates are booked well in advance, so please check with the numbers listed at the top of each artist's listing for confirmation of the concert. If the mood strikes you, send in your review of the show...it may get printed in Heaven's Metal!

WHITECROSS

5/1	Springfield MO	708-695-1444
5/2	Caney KS	
5/7	Greenville IL	
5/8	Versailles IN	
5/14	Petoskey MI	
5/15	Grand Rapids MI	
5/16	Cass City MI	
5/20	New Orlands LA	
5/21	Milton FL	
5/22	Lakeland FL	
5/23	Lakeland FL	
5/25	Atlanta GA	
5/27	Ducan SC	

CRASHDOG

6/25	Creation PA	717-392-3690
7/2	Cornerstone IL	312-989-2087

BRIDE

5/1	Cleveland OH	216-888-6740
6/25	Creation PA	502-231-0387
6/26	Covenant '93 KY	"

SERAIAH

5/15	Dallas TX	817-267-5000

BETRAYAL

5/28	Dallas TX	817-267-5000
5/30	San Antonio TX	210-659-7050

REZ

5/7	Chicago IL (Glenn solo)	312-702-2873
6/25	Creation PA	717-392-3690

LUST CONTROL

5/8	Dallas TX	817-267-5000
5/24	Austin TX	512-440-1277
6/24	San Antonio TX	210-659-7050
6/26	Dallas TX	512-440-1277

FIGHTER

5/22	Dallas TX	817-267-5000

BLOODGOOD

5/1	Dallas TX	817-267-5000

LEGEND

5/15	Aurora IL	708-264-1855

THE BRAVE

6/11	Aurora IL	708-264-1855

GUARDIAN

6/5	Aurora IL	708-264-1855

TOURNIQUET

6/19	Bartlesville OK	708-695-1444
6/24	Anna IL	
6/25	Aurora IL	708-264-1855
6/26	Columbus OH	
6/28	Traver City MI	
6/29	Detroit MI	

THE CRUCIFIED

6/30	Aurora IL	708-264-1855

DELIVERANCE

6/30	Aurora IL	708-264-1855

MORTAL

6/10	San Antonio TX	210-659-7050

MORTIFICATION

6/24	San Antonio TX	210-659-7050

LIVING SACRIFICE

6/24	San Antonio TX	210-659-7050
6/25	Austin TX	512-264-2994

Pastor Bob

(Photo by Sandra Mayurnik)

WAITING, DATING, & MATING

Greg stood horrified as he read the letter once again...

Dear Greg,

I know this is going to hurt you a lot, but I thought it would be better now than later. I cannot marry you. I know I told you that I loved you, but all of this is happening too quickly and my feelings are changing. We don't even know each other! Please try to understand. I know God has a wonderful wife out there for you somewhere. I'm sorry.

God bless you,

Cindy

Thoughts of suicide entered Greg's head. Pain and despair were beginning to wipe him out. What would he do? This was the third time he had been engaged! Greg really wanted to be married, but it all seemed so hopeless now. He was tired of praying about it. It just seemed like God wasn't listening. "I want a wife, God!" he screamed as he shook his fist toward the sky. Why was God being so cruel?

Sound familiar? Maybe you're at the same place. Finding your future mate is a confusing thing!

Paul says, "Now, for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband...for it is better to marry than to burn with passion." (1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 9b)

So, how do you go about finding your future mate? Here are 10 steps you should follow as you prepare for marriage:

1. **MAKE A CHOICE!**

Are you willing to follow God's will for your life, or are you going to take matters into your own hands? What if God should want you to remain single? If you choose to take matters into your own hands, then there is nothing more to be said. You have already decided to do it your way!

2. **HIT YOUR KNEES!**

Take this whole area before God in prayer. Let Him work in your heart and show you any areas you need to bring into submission!

3. **CONFESS YOUR SINS**

If there has been any sexual sins in your life, lay them out before God and deal with them on your knees in prayer! You need to ask God for forgiveness. You may also need to ask forgiveness of the person or persons that you have violated! But remember--you can start over! God will clean you and give you back your purity!

4. **MORE PRAYER!**

In point number two, I told you to being praying about the whole direction of your life and your sexuality, but here is where you get serious about praying through this area. Get serious with God. Ask Him to begin to prepare your heart for marriage. Ask Him to show you your mate. Ask Him to guard your heart against falling in love with the wrong people! Begin interceding for your mate in prayer. God knows who you are going to marry. Ask Him to begin molding your hearts together--even before you meet!

5. **DEFINE WHAT A DATE IS!**

Dating is serious business! You are only ready to date once you have completed the first four steps! Remember, the purpose of a date is to find your mate, not for recreation!

6. **QUIT DATING ALTOGETHER!**

Realize your motives for a date. Be honest with yourself! For a guy, the motives are usually sexual. I mean that in the largest sense of the word, not that you necessarily want to jump into bed on the first date. Remember, women are able to fall in love a lot faster than men! 9 times out of 10, someone ends up getting hurt in the "dating game." The only person you really need to date is your future spouse. Wait for them. You'll recognize them!

7. **GET SOME OUTSIDE HELP!**

Find someone who is older than you--especially older than you spiritually. Find someone who can give you godly counsel. Choose someone who can keep their mouth shut! It needs to be a personal thing--not for everyone to know! Because you are so close to the situation, and because you will find some very strong feelings getting in the way of reason, make sure you listen to the counsel!

8. **WATCH FROM A DISTANCE**

When Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for his son Isaac, he told him to "watch quietly and pray silently." Be careful that you don't get involved too deep too fast! Spend some time watching the other person in group settings.

9. **AVOID INTIMATE SUBJECTS!**

Be careful about what you say to the other person when you do get together. There are words that we throw around today that have almost lost their meaning. Words like, "I love you!" Guys, when you say that to a woman, it should be followed by, "Will you marry me?"--and it can if you have practiced these steps!

10. **IF YOU DATE, DRAW THE LINES IN ADVANCE!**

Don't ever say, "I lost my virginity." You didn't lose it, you gave it away! Decide how far you will go, and then determine not to go any farther. Except for rape, if you follow the rules I have laid out for you here, you will never end up pregnant when you don't want to be, or the father of a child you didn't intend to father!

David gives us some great advice that can be applied to the area of dating and marriage in Psalm 37: "Trust in the Lord and do good...depend upon the Lord and He will grant you your heart's desire...commit your life to the **Lord,** trust in Him, and He will act...wait quietly for the Lord--be patient until He comes!"

For a complete listing of Pastor Bob's teaching tapes and Bible study materials, please send a SASE to:

"Pastor Bob's Column," Sanctuary Church, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-8330. HM

WARRIOR TRIBUTE

Now that the reign of Sacred Warrior has officially come to an end, I would like to express my appreciation for their ministry. From ''REBELLION'' through ''OBSESSIONS,'' Sacred Warrior has consistently set the industry standards in terms of technical, spiritual and musical excellence. The music they created has such an obvious anointing. My favorite cut is ''**Sweet Memories**.'' It is encouraging and motivating to stop and consider that one day, not only will we see Christ in Heaven, but we'll also see our friends and relatives in Christ who've already left this earth.

Thanks again guys, Rey Parra, Tony Velazquez, Bruce Swift, John Johnson, Steve Watkins and Rick Macias. Your work will be missed, but not forgotten. I pray that, as each of you go your separate ways, God will enable you to become even more effective in living for and influencing others for Him.

--Jeff Glidewell
St. Joseph, Missouri

UPLIFTING COLUMNS

I've been reading the latest issue of Heaven's Metal and wanted to let you know that I was blessed. Columns by Pastor Bob and Kemper Crabb really made me think--and all the scripture references in Kemper's column convicted, challenged, and encouraged me to work harder at developing whatever talents God has given me. I was also pleasantly surprised that a Christian band, namely Midnight Hour, exists here in the city of Omaha. I also love the big posters that you are putting in now. My only complaint is that Mortal and Tourniquet were on the same poster. How about another Mortal poster? Keep on printing a great magazine.

--Gordon Hackman
Offut AFB, Nebraska

STOP DISSIN' SLICK WILLY!

First of all, I want to thank you for many great issues of Heaven's Metal in the past. I've been a subscriber for quite some time now, and have really enjoyed your publication; but your most recent issue (#39) managed to upset me--even to the point of writing. I find it extremely hard to believe that you would stoop to the level of printing a ''review'' of Bill Clinton (I should say President Clinton) by someone such as D.J. of Living Sacrifice.

First of all, I'm a 19 year old college student attending the Ohio State University. I am a born-again Christian and am very interested in politics. I am appalled at the closed-mindedness of millions of Christians across this great land. Christians judge political issues on one thing: abortion. If we'd spend half of our time worrying about winning people to Christ, instead of wasting our time pondering over ''innocent life,'' maybe we'd get somewhere.

At any rate, my point is this: I turn to The New Yorker and other publications for political dealings. I turn to Heaven's metal for that narrow genre of music classified as Christian Heavy Metal. I love all types of music, and I love your magazine. Please weed out your ''right wing'' political views as much as possible. And hey all you pro-lifers; remember: ''Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.'' (Proverbs 19:21) Pray for our country, and yes, that includes William Jefferson Clinton.

--Douglas Delong
Columbus, Ohio

SACRIFICE THIS CD!

I have a couple of questions; but first let me explain. I just picked up Living Sacrifices new CD, ''NONEXISTENT,'' which totally describes the vocal comprehension of the whole CD: nonexistent. Now, don't get me wrong, I loved their first CD. I thought it was the best thrash I've heard. It's production was great and so was the music and you could pick up most of the lyrics by listening to the CD, and what you missed you can read. I tried to read along with the songs on the new CD, and I'm reading some fantastic lyrics, but I'm listening to someone with no tongue trying to cough up a hairball. Now, I know other bands have the same problem (Vengeance Rising and Mortification), but I honestly thought they couldn't find a better singer. But now Living Sacrifice has gone from comprehension to comprehension not!

This has raised some questions: 1) Are they purposely singing this way--and why? 2) Is this what people want--to hear and do secular bands do this also? 3) If the biggest difference between Christian and non-Christian bands is the lyrical message, should we not proclaim it as clearly as possible?

This is only my own opinion. I'm not trying to bad mouth these bands, I'm just trying to point out that I believe pronunciation is both enjoyable and important.

--Scott Schock
Elgin, Illinois

CHRISTIANS VS. CHRISTIANS

First of all, I wanna say that you guys have the best Christian magazine out there! Keep up the good work! The main reason I'm writing is because I'm seeing a lot in the Christian church that is really bothering me. I loved what Christopher Hyde had to say in HM #37. It seems like Christians are at each other's throats constantly, whether it be denomination vs. denomination, or just one Christian vs. another. This isn't the way God intended for it to be! People need to realize that there are different kinds of ministry, whether it's church hymns or Christian thrash. Just think how much of a difference the church could make if we would all just pull together and present a unified front to the secular world.

''May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.'' (John 17:23)

--Jake Christian
Papillion, Nebraska

RESTORE THE FIRE

I want to say that I really love your magazine. I've been a Christian for 2 1/2 years. I used to read Circus and other secular magazines. I'm sick of the letters the readers send you. These so called ''Christians'' should be ashamed of themselves. Christians should be loving and kind. The letters you've received are

very judgmental and critical of everyone. Do you think God judges us that way? I know He doesn't. If He did, none of us would get to Heaven. Christianity has changed for the worst. I suggest that you all go and read the Word of God, and get recommitted.

If this is the kind of example you set as "Christians," it's no wonder Christianity has lost its unity. I'm not putting anyone down, but it's time for someone to stand up for what's right. Remember: It's up to us as Christians to help the lost and set an example. And remember this also: We're out to sell God, not ourselves. I will pray for all of you who need help.

As far as the secular groups in the magazine, they need to hear the Word of God. The people that are interviewing them are being God's tools. We should all become a witnessing tool for God; and that's something all of us Christians need to do. I want to thank the editors and everyone else that works on this magazine. You guys do a great job of not backing down from the letters you receive. I pray that your magazine will help the people that are lost and all the Christians who have fallen away from God. They need the fire restored.

--Sonya Crooks
Newton Falls, Ohio

SO SEZ ME

In recent issues of HM I've noticed people raggin' on HM for interviewing secular bands. Please don't rag on HM for its "So Sez" column. It's there to help us, not tick us off! I'll close with the words of Lust Control: "Give me that stone, you don't know how to use it!"

--Kris Shoemaker
Mansfield, Ohio

GOD LOVES CATHOLICS TOO

I am responding to the article with DIE HAPPY. I was wondering why did Greg say "being a Catholic would cause some difficulty in the Christian market?" I really don't understand. Do people have anything against the Catholic religion? It shocks me when I heard that he gets condemned because he is Catholic. Why does he get condemned for his religion?

I am a Catholic and I am proud of it. I listen to Christian Music and I can't even believe that in this music industry you get criticized because you are Catholic.

--John McGovern
Coon Rapids, Minnesota

HEY! MR. POSTMAN

Dear Sir,

I work for the post office and recently saw your magazine come through. I was very happy to see a magazine devoted to Christian heavy metal (my favorite bands are Styper, Bride, X-Sinner, & Guardian). Could you please send me more information on how to subscribe to your magazine. I would appreciate it!!

--Tom Griffith
Garden Grove, California

NOT !

This letter is concerning the classified ad that appeared in The Trading Post of issue #39. This ad was from a guitarist who was seeking a lady with "blond hair, blue eyes, and a nice figure." This gentleman also requested that photos be sent to him. I was offended by this ad and was a little surprised that it would appear in Heaven's Metal. This sends out a very negative attitude toward women (as well as men who don't share this man's particular views). I enjoy your magazine and find it very Christ-centered, and I am by no means trying to put you down. I am just writing to ask if you could please review your classified ads more carefully in the future?

--Tammy Daly
Rochester, Minnesota

KEEP IT UP

I would like to give you guys and gals a word of encouragement. You have one of the best magazines out there today. I would also like to tell you that you are a real blessing to my life. I love the articles in your magazine, and like it when you put So and So Sez, because it helps me witness to my non-Christian friends. I would like to say one more thing Whitecross RULES !

--Jeremy Cadiece
Stafford, Virgina

HAT'S OFF

I'm writing to say that Heaven's Metal is hazardous to one's health. When an issue arrives at my door, I hurriedly open the magazine and delve into the wonders inside. I will sit for hours reading, praying and thinking about what is said and what is new in Christian Music. I will go so far as to skip supper or go to bed real late reading your magazine. And, of course, my homework is done after feeling guilty, because I have sat reading for so long. I have Heaven's Metalitis and I love it!

Another thing--and I thank you very much for this--earlier this year I wrote that I had still not received an issue and almost before I could blink you sent me a replacement issue. Thanks for the terrific service.

I would also like to make a couple of suggestions. (Hope you don't mind). First of all, like all your readers, I wish you would go monthly. Secondly, would it be possible to publish a transcription of a song in each issue? I don't know if that's possible with laws and copyrights, etc., but I think it would be kind of neat for us aspiring musicians.

--Rob Lockey
St. Catharines, Canada

TED WAS IN TROUBLE!

Hey man! First off, I want to say that I love your mag! I have been curious about this for quite a while now and thought that you might be able to give me some info. My favorite group in the world is Tourniquet and they have been my favorite ever since "STOP THE BLEEDING." Anyway, I was reading in one of your older issues of HM and read how Guy Ritter used to be the lead singer of another band, and that got me thinking.

It surprised me to think that he was in another group before Tourniquet, but then it made perfect sense, because since he is such a great vocalist, he must have been in some groups before. Anyway, I was wondering where Ted and Gary came from--I mean, they didn't just pop out of nowhere. Could I just get a little history on the group? (Especially about Guy and Ted, because Ted is like my favorite musician in the whole world.)

Some questions are: Was Ted Kirkpatrick in any other groups? And Gary? Do you think Ted ranks with secular drummers? And Guy with secular vocalists?

I fully understand that this is a lot to ask, so don't feel like I'm asking for a book about Tourniquet (even thought that would be nice!). I just was curious about their background and what critics say about their music and their talent. Thank you very much, Doug, and thanks a million for the best magazine--Heaven's Metal.

Tourniquet's biggest fan,
--David Ortman
Clackamas, Oregon

(Ed--Thanks for your encouragement! I, too, think Tourniquet shreds!! Before starting Tourniquet, Guy Ritter was in Holy Danger, out of Oregon, as was his buddy Gary Lenaire. Ted Kirkpatrick, who I think ranks up there with any of rock's drummers, was in the group Trouble for a short time. By the way, can you sing? Tourniquet is currently looking for a replacement for Guy.)

ALBUM REVIEWS

TOURNIQUET "INTENSE LIVE SERIES, VOL. 2"

Intense

Oh yes! It doesn't take but one listen to this disc to know that you've got one molten hot slab of killer tunes collected on one "Live in the studio" EP. These performances definitely live up to the name "Intense Live Series." Two of the tunes are mega collectors-items: a cover of the Bloodgood tune **The Messiah** (with Les Carlsen handling lead vocals!) and **The Tempter**, a tune off the first Trouble album.

This loose format gives these stellar musicians a chance to show off their skills and energy levels. As boasted in the liner notes, the guitars here are boosted way up to the "Awright!!!" level that metal maniacs crave.

Every song on here is brilliant, so I'll comment on each one. **Phantom Limb** starts off with the boys riffing away at Rush's **Spirit of Radio** and then going into their own familiar territory, albeit a bit faster than on "PATHOGENIC..." Les actually sounds at home in this 99 miles per hour delivery (remember **Crucify** and **Battle of the Flesh**?). **Ark of Suffering** features a short inclusion of **Stereotaxic Atrocities**, tying together the band's two animal rights songs.

Whitewashed Tomb finds the band blazing away instrumentally, which is also the only real moment on the disc where my mind starts to wander away from the sounds emitting from the stereo speakers. It's not a bad tune, but a jam's a jam--even if the musicians are exceptional. **The Skeezix Dilemma** restarts with four vocalists throwing in their vocal chords: Les, Gary Lenaire, Victor Macias and Erik Mendez. The jam in the bridge shows Ted thrashing away at his drums and cymbals with a passion. The shout and response chants near the song's end add a majestic feel to the tune--which even Spinal Tap couldn't top for gothic-ness. The guitar harmonies ending the song turn into great little solos.

Most of the tunes here are tuned down to C, which gives **The Tempter** the low end power it deserves. The guys in Trouble would be proud. **The Messiah** is pulled off with Bloodgood-like power and feeling, although it sounds as if the band is not quite at home with the tune at the beginning of the third verse. The line, "Don't be afraid!" seems to catch the guys off guard. Alas, it almost feels good to catch these monster players (and apparent perfectionists) making a mistake--even if a tiny one. Les' little "thank you, Jesus" that he whispers at the end of the tune is moving in its simplicity.

What can I say? Go get this one and feast!

--Doug Van Pelt

TAMPLIN

Benson

Ken is back with more fast 'n' melodic hard rock here, showing off his penchant for that melodic hook that sinks deep into your brain and makes for good radio airplay. While first hype on this record was that it was perhaps better than Magdallan, I'd have to say...Well, I'll let the public make the final judgement on that one, but it sounds more like Ken's other two solo albums and Shout projects than the multi-layered Magdallan album to this reviewer. The common link between this project and those other four is a sonic one. It seems that Ken's got a deaf spot (or a favorite taste?!) on the frequency scale. All his projects (except Magdallan) major on the high end, leaving a thin range of sound that hits the ears. While becoming a trademark for Ken, I think this is the only real weakness in his songwriting.

After several listens, this album gets better and better and the hooks begin to attach their tentacles to your ears with an "I'm never letting go" grip. "**Slave Trade**" is one of the tallest standout cuts, with its back-to-basics power chord rhythms a la AC/DC, which gives the lyrics the attitude they deserve. The lead solo here further drives the 'tude home. If there was only one song to pick as the hit, it would have to be "**Suspicious Eyes**," which has the grittiest riffs and best vocal tones on the album. The vocals on the verses are like Coverdale singin' low, communicating witty lyrics atop some spicy percussion. This song can match any of the pizazz and bang of the Magdallan project--to which comparisons can't help but be made. It's part of life in the entertainment biz: You release an incredible album and people are going to use it as a standard against your subsequent work.

Some of the studio tricks found on "BIG BANG" show up here, like the vocal effects and creative sound stacking, like what sounds like a guitar synthesizer in "**Movers And Shakers**" and the jazzy and jangly guitars gracing the outro to "**Testify**." This song carries a big stick sound that rocks with authority, and it also adds the diversity of a Black Gospel sound in the chorus. Good idea by Ken, cause baby it really works! This song has got some soul! Other highlights include "**Mystery Train**," which has some cool vocal harmony layering, and "**Don't Let The Sky**," with a great melodic chorus and some low 'n' bluesy singing. The intro to "**Get Out Of My Sun**" sounds like the groove to Randy Stonehill's "**You're Loved Tonight**," but definitely puts more hard rock muscle in its punch than ole Uncle Rand ever did.

"**Livin' For My Lord**," although simply re-titled "**Livin'**" here, shows up again from the "AN AXE TO GRIND" album. I suppose that Tamplin, like Deliverance with its "**Weapons**..." video, wants to give the quality video footage some extra life. Not a bad decision, especially since there's already 11 other tracks on the album. Also, for the mainstream audience, it caps off the album letting everyone listening know where Tamplin is coming from.

This album is consistently better than any of his previous projects (except Magdallan), yet none of the highlights here (save for "**Suspicious Eyes**") are as great as the high points on "BIG BANG." How can you top tunes like "**Cry Just A Little**," "**Heartbreak Woman**," "**Radio Bikini**" and "**Shake**?" Well, it's hard, but Kenny proves he ain't even close to bein' done with his habit of crankin' out good tunes. I think he lives up to the Magdallan standard, but doesn't go beyond it.

--DV

MORTIFICATION "POST MOMENTARY AFFLICTION"

Intense

The grind planets are back with heaps of power metal racing at 90 m.p.h. and vocals from horror movie soundtracks. The lead-off cut displays the newer style of music that Steve describes in the interview this issue. The riffs and rhythms really are structured with heavy, gothic, Iron Maiden-style power metal in mind, and the vocals are easier to understand.

The intro to "**Distarnish Priest**" is the biggest example of the slower, power metal vibe. The vocal breaks

BRUTAL REALITY

GENERATION

UNDER MIDNIGHT

AVAILABLE ON WONDERLAND CASSETTES AND COMPACT DISCS DISTRIBUTED BY WORD INC.

here are intense, timed as well as some of the classic early Vengeance material. The breakdown section shreds! It slows down and the important lines of the chorus are shouted/chanted out with urgency:

"I'm clean, washed in the blood/Sanctified inside-out/I'm dead to Satan's grasp/Justified by the cross."

"**Grind Planetarium**" is the best presentation on the whole "rock star attitude" that I've ever seen:

"Manipulation of others to bring about success/Abomination/ Those of flesh will see you're false...Christian warfare/Kill the stars, exalt the cause/Mass exposure is what we want, but for our Lord."

I want to shout, "Yeah, preach it brother!" but also scream "Ouch!" as I examine my own heart.

"**Overseer**" has the coolest, most demented stereo effect of distortion I've heard in a while. The incessant riff to this song is repetitive though, like the previous two Mortification albums. "**Human Condition**" features some cool vocal shout/call and response BGV's that remind me of a Believer or early Living Sacrifice delivery. "**Vital Fluids**" delivers another crystal-clear all-important invitation-like message that is decipherable to most--even at a casual listen:

"If anyone is thirsty/ Come to Christ and drink/Whoever believes in Christ/Living water flows from Him."

Besides the usual guitar show-boating that metal is known for, the other two members of Mortification have their chance to get noticed too. There's some really cool industrial-like drumming in "**This Momentary Affliction**," followed by a mean bass instrumental called "**Flight Of Victory**."

Mortification has crafted some killer tunes here that show the maturation in songwriting and tightness that two previous albums and extensive touring all over Australia has brought. Overall, the majority of this album is Mortification music that I can actually enjoy listening to--a good mixture of groove and gargantuan grind--as opposed to nothing but flat-out blast beats and gurgling death vocals.

--DV

ROSE
"INTENSE LIVE SERIES, VOL. III"

Intense

This will be one of those collector's items--being a rare performance of a good band. These all would qualify as B-singles, though, when compared to the band's latest studio effort--"HEALING." This is a project that takes getting used to. The first couple listens are gonna hit you with the awareness of the thin production. You can tell this is a live-in-the-studio EP, a what-you-play-is-what-you-get representation of sound. It doesn't even sound as beefy as it may if it were recorded in a small club.

I don't know what kind of equipment the band brought in, but, in my humble opinion, maybe the guitarists should've doubled the number of amps and cabinets. This would've caused the album to blow us in the face, like the guy in the Maxell commercial.

Cranking up the volume on your stereo and several listens are the keys to unlock the pleasure from this 6-song EP. The fastest track, "**Demons**," comes off well in this live atmosphere, where it gets to kick out the jams a bit. The big low end of "**D.O.P.**" from "HEALING" comes off real cool. This song is big and bold. If I had the CD at review time, I'd probably program the player to repeat this song over and over. "**On My Knees**" finds the band playing together well, which is always a challenge with a slow tune when playing live. Randy's voice has that nice 'n' low haunting tone to it. The guitars sound good 'n' nasty, like a cross between old Sabbath on the verses and some old blues player during the leads. "**Oppression**" starts off the EP. It's a hot tune: very simple and straight-forward, yet lacks the passion the lyrics deserve. It seems to have caught Randy in a lull. Maybe the drummer should've speeded everyone up a few paces. The cover tune played here is "**You've Got To Move**," a staple in the Darrell Mansfield live set. It comes off pretty well, probably better than the Kentucky Headhunters-like tune about sin's eventual exposure in a person's life (track #4), yet seems a bit formulaic blues-wise.

Rose is a band that deserves respect, yet listening to this EP won't build on the band's reputation unless you've heard their latest album. Then you'll see why these guys deserve an ear.

--DV

SACRED WARRIOR
"CLASSICS"

Intense

Here's a wonderful 13-song disc that shows off some of the best tunes from this blazing quartet. Culling tunes from all four albums, this line-up features a nicer "sit down and listen" consistency than did any of the albums themselves. It starts off with the rockin' "**Temples On Fire**, "a good rocker that would make a good concert opener, and stays at a high energy level for five more cuts before slowing down for the beautiful "**He Died**" ballad from the debut album. The anthemic "**Beyond The Mountain**" picks up the pace in a strong, methodic approach that gets the heart going fast again for three more songs before slowing down again for the haunting "**Sweet Memories**" from "OBSESSIONS." Two more barn-burners close the album--"**Bound In Chains**" and "**Warriors**" (acting as a good rally call for all their listeners to team up with God's angels and fight the good fight).

This is a good representation of a very hot band, but there is one HUGE, glaring mistake here: Where is the band's all-time greatest track--"**Holy, Holy, Holy**?" To overlook this tune has to rank as an all-time goof. (DV)

GENERATION
"BRUTAL REALITY"

Wonderland

What we have smothered over this album are some very heavy guitar-dominated grooves and killer drum sound, especially on the Zeppelin-esque track "**Nothing To Give**" (like "**When The Levee Breaks**"). The lead-off track (one of the most important songs on any album--especially with a new band--has a very cool 'n' heavy riff. It's incessant, but doesn't cross the line into total techno-ville, if you know what I mean. It still sounds very heavy--like the blasphemous Ministry tune "**Jesus Built My Hot Rod**." "**Retrovision**" takes it up one notch with a thrash metal speed snare drum attack.

"**I Live In Flesh**" slows the pace down with a melodious riff that starts off with keyboards and then a wall of sound (but turned down) rhythm section carries the beat like a Van Halen party/talk-over song. This may be the best setting for these lyrics, which bring new life to the 2,000 year old adage: "I do what I don't want to do and I don't do what I want to do." Check it out:

"I need to open my eyes and stop acting surprised, because as sure as this world will continue to turn/When I jump into the fire it's going to burn/I know what's right in my soul/But I fight not to give up control/I live in flesh/It's a tomb of my will/I live in flesh/It's beginning to kill/I live in flesh/With the nature of sin/I live in flesh/I am a slave within...I can tell what you're doing to me/And I must say I don't really like it/Well, part of me does/I can't tell a lie/But that is the part that's supposed to die...I know I'm supposed to run/But there's a part of me that wants to stay and have some fun/I live in flesh/I cannot feed the desire/I live in flesh/I need to run from the fire."

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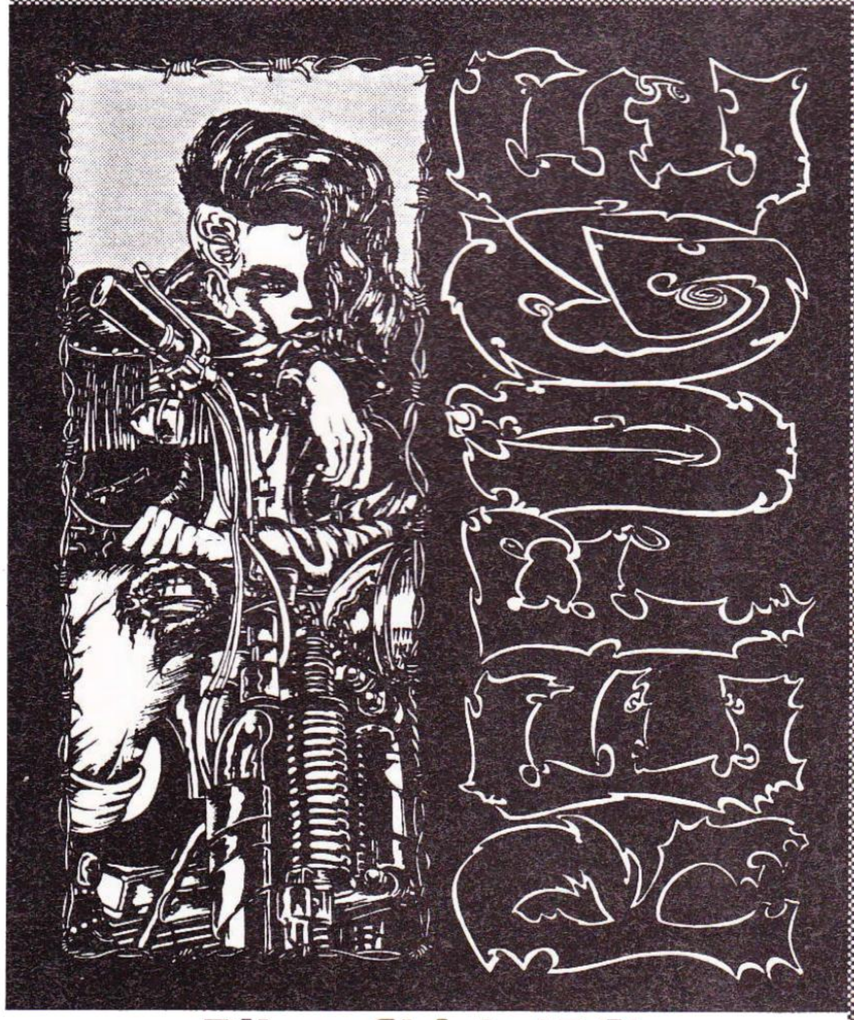

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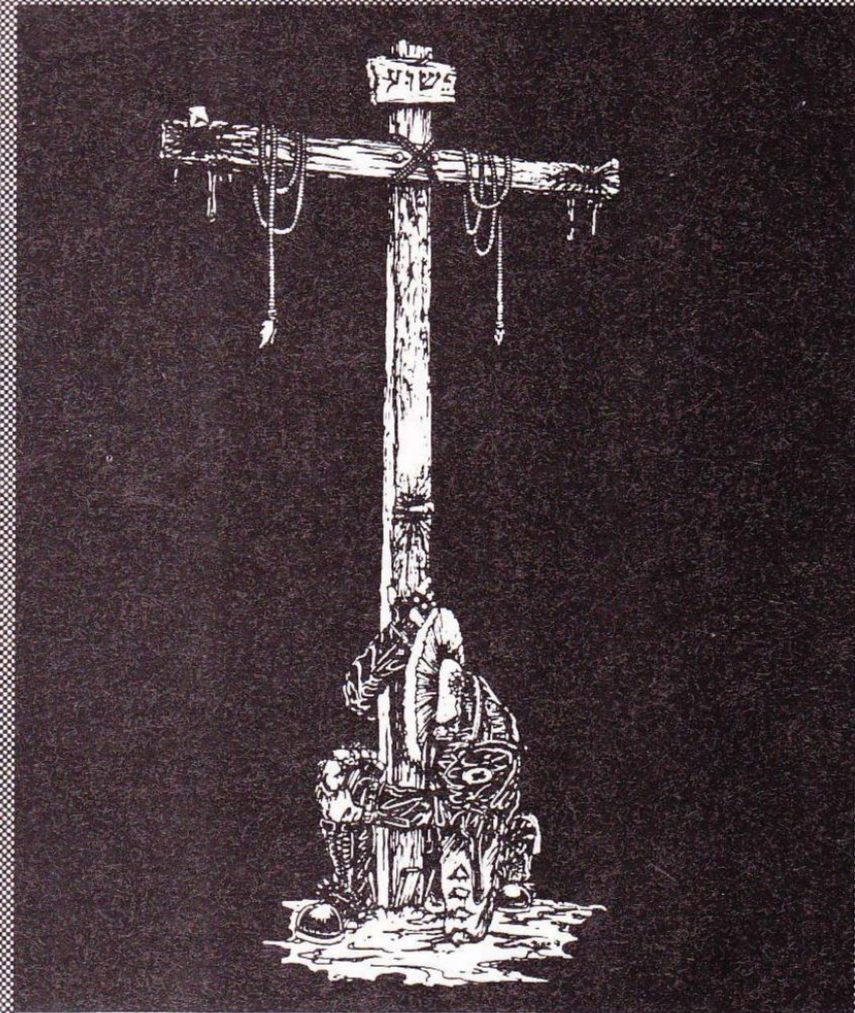

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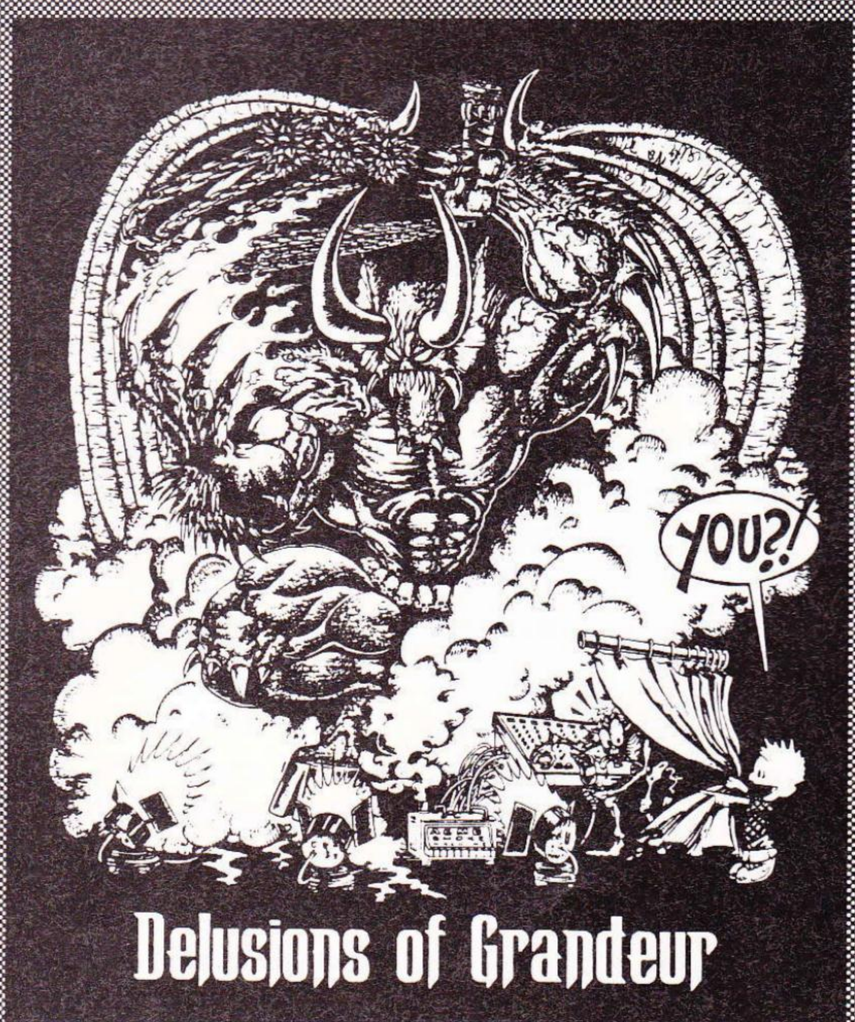

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Cool lyrics, eh? Musically, the highlight of the album has to be the classic tone that Trouble guitarist Bruce Franklin lays down here. It's big, fat and loud! "**Hunger**" showcases it in a staccato riff that's pretty darn tough. The lead screams a flurry of sound for a few out of control seconds that match the disenchantment feel of the song.

Generation. They're really not an industrial band so much as a real heavy music band, but their industrial "roots" do get the best of 'em for about a third of the album. When it comes to industrial, I can get a real headache after 15 minutes or so, but I can listen to this disc three times in a row before the migraine pain starts to knock.

--DV

UTHANDA "BELIEVE"

Essential

Could there be three sides to this review?

"BELIEVE," the new and latest release from Uthanda is their best effort yet in growing into the rock club style. After hearing about these guys live and then seeing them, I felt that a review of their new project would be cool.

Look out, though, because after the third time I listened to it, I was hooked. On the first listen only the song, "**Shadow Play**" stood out as an interesting tune with a heavy message: "Weakness is the only strength in me/Your forgiveness is the only way."

Yet, on the second listen, an 80's cover tune stuck out and said, "Enjoy the fun memories of your teenage years!" The song is "**Cars**" by Gary Numan; and yet more fun was the 60-ish keyboards mixed with the rock ballad sound of today in the song "**Did You**." It's for all those times you have questions and yet your spirit gives you a peace of mind.

Now, the third time I had built a foundation of fun and a song I really enjoyed on the third pass was the rockin' tune, "**Fear**." It's got a heavy alternative beat, yet with guitars playing that ole' grunge sound. "**Fear**" is my favorite track and could very well be yours.

Dig into this release and build upon the truth that's weaved into the lyrics and the styles of rock that still reigns in the midst of Southern California.

--Charles Gates

GLENN KAISER "ALL MY DAYS"

Grrr

If a believer never slows down and worships God, he or she is missing a wonderful part of God and how He interacts with individuals and groups of believers. Now, some people's attitudes and tastes build walls of discrimination, to where they cannot give praise to God accompanied to an Integrity-Hosanna worship tape. Maybe people in this category will feel less estranged if one of their own, a rock and roll warrior like Glenn Kaiser, leads them in worship.

This is a very valid way to look at the ministry value of this album. It truly meets a need in every believer's life--worship. Who knows? Maybe it can turn your parents on to a side of Glenn Kaiser they'd love. Musically, it does have a milder tempo than REZ crankin' at full tilt. (Can you say, "Mellow, mellow, mellow?") Even though some drums and electric guitar get goin' here a bit, this is predominantly an acoustic album. You can't put it on and appreciate it strictly for its rock-out value, like "ALL HAIL THE POWER," for instance, but the songs are melodic--especially the story-like tunes such as "**Lord of All**" and "**Tapestry**." Many of these can be used (and are) in congregational settings, like "**Behold The Lamb**" and "**Ever Closer**."

--DV

ASIGHT UNSEEN "HOLLYWOOD PROVERBS"

Metro One

Could this mean out of sight? The band's second release shows tremendous growth in their lyrical experiences in "HOLLYWOOD PROVERBS."

"**Keeping Time**" says, "Lord help me keep the time, cuz my time is yours/There is something much bigger than life/You know I'm keepin' time." This track should be played each morning as one of these upbeat "kick in the seat" tunes that give direction. The guitars in this project have a deep, funky alternative, sometimes grunge sound that stays fat in the right places.

It's great to have a track that just hits you at your knees and think of the incredible grace and love of God as the track "**Dave**" hits home with a look at King David and the relationship God showed with him. The parallel to our lives today come through with a slow driving sound that gives emotional strength.

"**The Big Watuzi**" is quite an impressive track. It's got the most upbeat tempo, yet is full of wild delivery. Distorted vocals, wandering rhythms and guitars make this a tune to talk about.

Most of the album has a slow funk rock base. A lot of the roots have rock to them, yet this time they added a twist of funk. I encourage you to get it and share it with friends and, most of all, if you ever see them live make sure you pay attention, cause you'll truly enjoy who this band is and what they do. Keep it up guys, and get the heavier side next time around, okay?

--CG

THE PRAYER CHAIN "SHAWL"

Reunion

From the beginnings of the loud Indian chants of "Ayy-yi-yi-yi!" that introduces "**Crawl**" to the jangly guitars of "**Psychoflange**," you're taken on an authoritative trip through the ever-popular Seattle sound. Although the album takes an atmospheric, U2-meets-Genesis ethereal turn midway through the album, the more lively tunes here are much more raw and energetic than the band's debut EP. "**Grin**" is a punk-like diversion and "**Never Enough**" sounds like a tribute to the "over the edge" passion of a Michael Knott. Very cool! This band spreads themselves across the wide alternative hard rock scene, which will garner them acceptance from fans of Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. The band's youth should help take them on many creative a journey throughout their career.

--DV

BELIEVER "HOME VIDEO"

Here's a fairly cool documentary look at one of Christian speed metal's favorite bands--Believer. We get all hand-held camcorder footage throughout, but the audio levels on all the live music and studio music overdubs are loud and clear. This is the best aspect of the video and helps salvage the sometimes dismal lighting and video footage.

The much hyped tour of bathrooms was not a major focal point (thank goodness), but it did show how different European bathrooms are from the States. The band lets us have a view of their travels, showing sights like a Cathedral in Germany, highway footage, tossing the football at gas stops and even sprinting across the infamous Autobahn with camera in hand.

There's nothing here really befitting MTV, but the Believer fan will enjoy the "get to know us a little better" feel of this aptly-titled home video, which comes packaged in a simple and stark black box. To order, send $14.95 to: R.E.X. Music, PO Box 25269, Nashville TN 37202.

--DV

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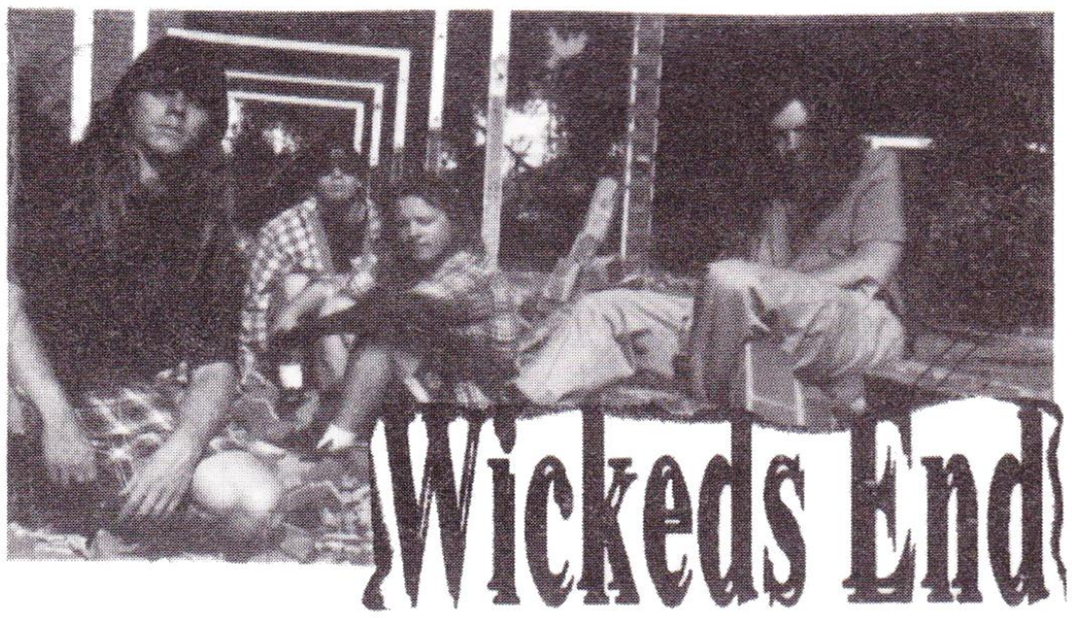

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Wickeds End can be requested on the following California radio stations - Reality Rock 90.1, KSPC 88.7, Midnight Metal Madness KPRO 1570 AM

CRIMSON THORN

This is one heavy tape of tunes (7 in all) that rates as competent speed metal. "**Misrepresented Representation**" is not as redundant musically as the title sounds. In fact, the riff here is top notch, giving way to some very fluid leads atop a melodic picking rhythm. Crunch is the main theme here in this song--as well as on the entire full-length of this tape.

The authority of the vocal delivery matches the authority of this power thrash music; and the lyrics are strong as well:

"Cleanliness, is drawn within/Blood purifying us from sin/Die to the flesh, everyday/For death of the flesh is the only way/Arise/You must die/Are you dead yet?" ("**Corruption of The Flesh**")

This is a hefty collection that is worthy of attention. To order, send $7 (plus $1.75 postage) to: PO Box 32042, Minneapolis MN 55432.

--DV

DEATHLESS

Whoa! Here's some killer tunes here with a high intensity rating. This five-man band from Puerto Rico is competent and heavy--real heavee! The guitar playing of Mandy Martinez and Unguel Cruz is impressive. Much of the lead tone is wah-wah based, while the rhythms are chugga crunchy--just the right recipe for mosh salad.

The title track, "**Judgement Ignorance**," is simply brilliant. The vocals come with the most attitude and articulation of this 6-song custom release. This song alone screams for attention from all fans of today's heavy metal. To give the song an even further fan base, a spoken rendition of Psalm 52 shows up in Spanish during the bridge section. If this deviation loses anybody, the ensuing jam brings your attention immediately back. These boys are tight!

A bonus cut is included, a worship song called "**Gozo En Mi Alma**" (Joy in my Soul). It starts out as a traditional congregational sing-along and then breaks into an all-out worship at full volume and full speed burner.

To order, send $6 to: Deathless, c/o Carlos Marquez, 35th St. P-9 Sans-Souci, Bayamon, Puerto Rico 00957.

--DV

BLOODBATH

This four-member band from Miliani, Hawaii is hot! Once you can get by the low production (which isn't that bad), it's easy to see that this band has real talent.

All five songs are really good. Drummer Shaun O'Brian pounds away at his kit so hard it makes me wonder how it stays together. Guitarist Frank Figueroa really has the "chugga chugga" sound down.

Lyrically, this band is very creative. "Earn your way, impossible to do/have faith in yourself, the who's blown it big is you/spilled blood on the cross has paid the price/act now, don't wait, this here is sound advice (**Paid In Full**). Bloodbath doesn't rehash lyrics. It's obvious that they put a lot of thought into them.

Considering the current scene in the underground, Bloodbath hopefully won't stay there too long. To order, send $5 to: PO Box 3911, Mililani, HI 96789.

--Jeff Lott

CORPSE

"Rotting, dying decaying man/ Spill his blood, crush his head/Spill his guts upon the floor/Slit his throat, he lives no more." My, my. Such sweet lyrics! Those lyrics from "**Rotting Nature**" come from a band called Corpse. These guys have death metal down. I'm not aware of such a band from Kentucky, so maybe they're the first (from there).

Musically, this band is great. All three songs here are well structured, with lots of time changes and Mortification-like vocals. The production is above average, so this tape doesn't just sound like noise. If you are into thrash (and who isn't?), get this tape. Believe me, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

To order, send $3 (for a Memorex copy) to: Corpse, c/o Jeff Hoskins, 5012 Newbolt Road, Owensboro, KY 42303.

--JL

LOOKOUT

Out of Bloodgood country (Washington) comes a four-piece band with some powerhouse metal. It was even recorded in Bloodgood guitarist Paul Jackson's home. These three songs are both lyrically and musically great!

"**Eli**" is a song talking about the crucifixion, while both "**Livin' In The End Times**" and "**Armageddon**" could both be lessons right out of Revelation. "**Livin' In The End Times**" has a great intro, with both guitarists trading off leads. A musical comparison would be maybe Barren Cross or Armada (remember them?). The only downer is in the production, but that's to be expected. Check it out!

To order, send $5 to: Lookout, c/o Mike Dean, 427 Oakhurst Dr, Elma, WA 98541. (JL)

JUDEA

First of all, let me say that this is not the band who appeared on the CALIFORNIA METAL 2 album a few years ago. This Judea is from the other coast--East, that is.

This is commercial metal (dare I say metal?) at its best. Any of these songs could and should be played on radio stations across the country. Picture Phil Collins singing with .38 Special with keyboards mixed in and you have Judea. In their press letter, they said that these four songs came from a full-length album, which means there are at least five or six more great tunes by this band to be heard. Bring 'em on!

If you're expecting Deliverance, forget it; but if you enjoy rock and roll radio, then this band is for you. To order the full-length tape, send $10 to: Rt. 1, Box 14, Purlear NC 28665.

--JL

NIGHTWATCH

With music from the soul and lyrics from the heart, Nightwatch pours forth 12 tracks on this custom tape entitled "COMING BACK." Contained within are eleven uptempo contemporary devotional tunes. "**Face to Face**" (which caught this reviewer's attention) was a surprise ear grabber, as well as the instrumental jam, thrown in for grins.

The sound quality, however, needs mucho work-o. As expected the vocals stand out clearly, while there are vast fluctuations between the lead guitar and rhythm guitar. Then there are the drums, which are not only muddy and gargled, but take a musical beating. Hey guys, next time adjust the E.Q....please.

Lyrical content and musical arrangement are important combinations, but clearness and clarity of the overall signal can make or break the best of arrangements. To order, send $6.95 (plus $1.50 shipping and handling) to: 821 Lynn St, Parkersburg, WV26101.

--Jeff Gish

AXIOM

Boy, do I like this tape! This band from Kansas City has put together three songs described in their press kit as energetic commercial metal. Ain't the truth!

"**Find My Way**" gets this tape rolling with guns blazing. Vocalist Troy Rowell sings with a lot of clarity, making it easy to understand him. "**Never Turn Away**" is next with a soft beginning and ending and some great musicianship in between.

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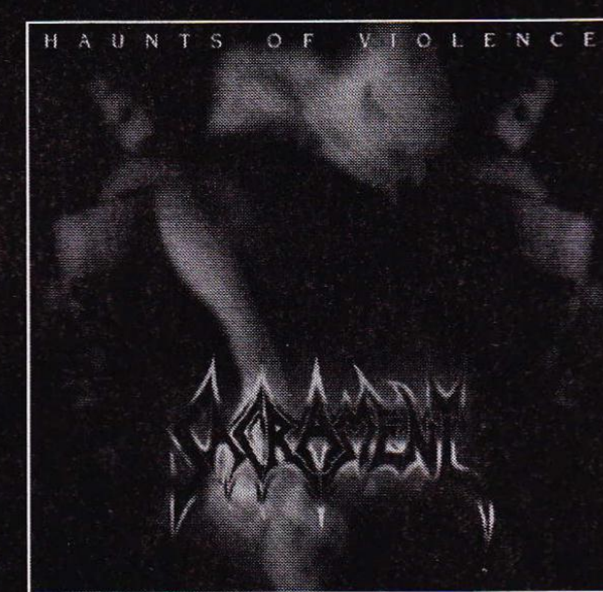
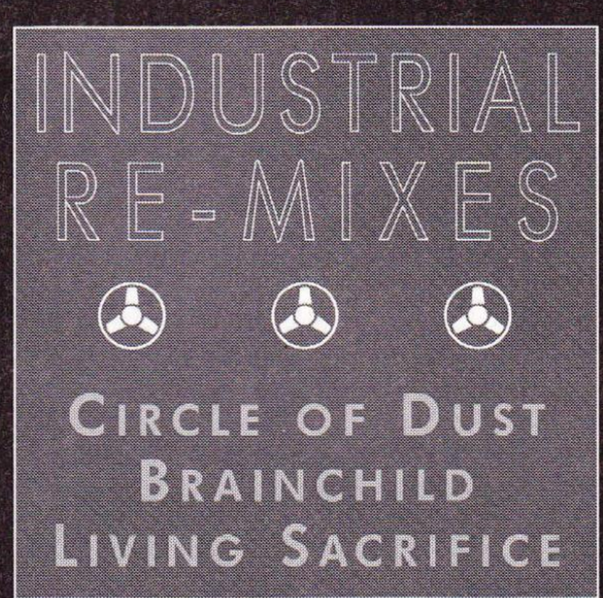


SACRAMENT
Haunts of Violence
"Very cool thrash with some intense vocals" - Heaven's Metal



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The last tune, "**Face to Face**," shows off the talent of guitarist Dave Farley, as Troy is saying, "1-2-3," the guitar sounds as if it's about to explode.

If you're looking for some old-fashioned hard driving metal, Axiom is the band for you. To order, send $5.50 to: Moonlite Music Promotions, 3008 S. 126th Plaza, Suite 52, Omaha, NE 68144.

--JL

CAPTAIN STAET NO DROG & THE BEYOND NOW BAND

This two-man band from Gulfport, Mississippi must have been heavy into the psychedelic scene at one time, cause this six-song tape is really weird! Actually, Gordon and Punq call this "Audio Abstracts." I'd say that title really fits.

The one "abstract" I really liked was "**Wrong Number, Hmmm!?**" Someone picks up a phone and what you think is a wrong number ends up telling this guy about Jesus. This tape is really a lot of sound effects with some decent guitar thrown in. If you're into the strangeness of Pink Floyd, then you'll probably like this. If you're not, you better pass on this one. To order, send $6 to: Paul Hedges, 11367 Creel Cir, Gulfport MS 39503.

--JL

ANDY LYON

In the past, Andy Lyon has won a few awards for songwriting. On this four-song demo, Andy displays more of his talent for writing agreeable, cross-over style lyrics.

However, the disappointing elements of this demo are evident in the music. Andy explains in his profile that he is aiming for both the Christian market and the secular market--a needed yet difficult service and task.

It's not that the musicianship is awful, because Andy does offer a euphonious musical style (well, sometimes the lead vocals sound a little stuffy and the BGV's sound better than the leads). It's that the current secular market requires innovation and demands some sort of edge in the music; and Andy's Journey-style music lacks that certain element of freshness (Andy lists Journey as one of his musical influences and it's obvious in these songs).

These guys have good intentions with their palatable and positive cross-over lyrics. However, if they are aiming for commercial recognitions and success, they need to consider the current musical trends and add some sort of edge to the music. With their talent, it should not take too much musical re-evaluation.

For ordering info, write: Little Valley Records, Arnprior Shopping Center, 375 Daniel St, S, Arnprior, Ontario, K7S-3K6, Canada.

--Camille Bresie

THE PALE FABLES

These guys have that indefinable and indescribable musical quality that is so prevalent in the current commercial music scene.

The lyrics are not blatantly Christian lyrics, but they are definitely well-constructed. On "**Two Cities**" Jeff James, the vocalist and lyricist, offers great lyrics full of literary allusion. Within the song "**White**" James' vocal presentation becomes a little awkward at one point as if he is trying to squeeze too much into the chorus; and in "**Wisdom Becomes**," James' vocal style sounds incompatible with the emotion of the song and the music.

Even though "TREASON" is just a four-song effort, The Pale Fables should include more moods--perhaps with a slower and more mellow song. These guys offer refreshing variety and provide an element of spunk which fits into the indefinable status and expectations of the radio-ready music of today. With a more emotional vocal melody, "**Wisdom Becomes**" could be a song worthy of some commercial airplay.

The Pale Fables have a suitable musical image and a solid written representation of themselves, which is evident through their promo. I have one bit of advice here concerning their image--they should strive for a more unified visual image as a band. In their promo, they describe themselves as "a young band on the verge of finding out where they belong," and make a plea that "all they need is one chance to prove themselves, that's all anyone can ask for." Someone should give them that chance.

To see for yourself, write: 7499 Hyssop Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739.

--CB

SIX FEET DEEP

The guys in Six Feet Deep provide a valid effort to the hardcore metal genre (Crucified, Suicidal Tendencies) with this three-song demo.

Musically, the guys have a good overall hardcore sound with some real cool funky elements. Fans of The Crucified are likely to love this tape.

The guys have appropriate in-your-face lyrics, and they address pertinent issues in a succinct way. In "**Condemnation**," Myk Porter, the band's vocalist, offers a discourse on judging others: "You, accuser/You, you the judge/Look within yourself/What do you find?/Condemnation belongs to God."

On the whole, these guys have fun with their music genre; yet they need more variety of songs rather than trying to squeeze variety into each song through awkward time changes. Maybe this is just showing the band's youth and/or inexperience in this style. Living with this intense music will only bring tightness and improvement. I think this is one of the hottest indie releases around.

As a side note, they offer a good visual representation of scripture in their cover art. Check it out by writing: PO Box 1733, Elyria, OH 44035.

--CB & DV

THE BUMPUS HOUNDS

The Bumpus Hounds make an attempt at the industrial sound with this five-song effort. In each song, the music starts out good; but the vocals just do not seem to fit into any of the songs.

The structure for each song is almost exactly the same--begin with a sample from something, bring in the guitar and music, start the incongruous vocals, and end abruptly with more sampling or keyboard effects. At times, the music and vocals are vicious, incongruous, and cacophonous, and as a result, the mood of this music is tremendously tense.

These guys have a very young sound. Distortion on vocals is not a requirement of the industrial music genre. The Bumpus Hounds need to strive for more musical maturity by obtaining a sense of what works together and what does not work at all. If these guys train their musical intuition, they will definitely improve their industrial music efforts.

For the lyric, write: 3203 Great Valley Dr, Cedar Park TX 78613. For a tape, send $5 to: PO Box 685, Matthews NC 28106.

--CB

JORDAN

This California band has gone after a new, more refined party-time metal sound, which was a good decision for this trio. The lead-off track, "**Get Out**," is the best tune, filled with a lot of attitude and sass. The message is in-your-face about how Jesus "kicked the devil's butt" on the cross. "**Ridin' For Jesus**" has a pretty cool anthem feel to it, but--I hate to say this--the lyrics about bikin' for Jesus sound cheesy. Would a group of Hell's Angels really dig this? It sounds a bit Sunday

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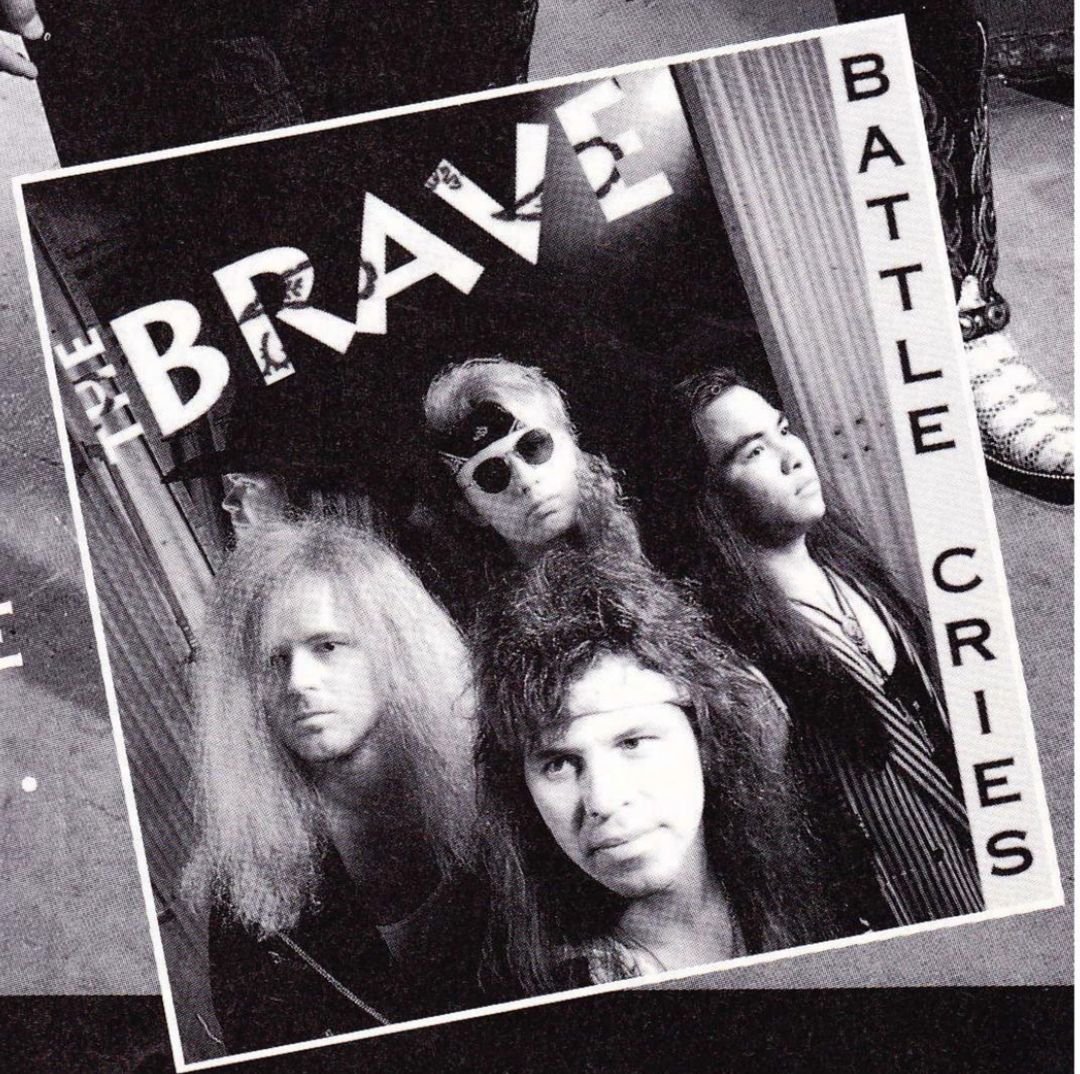

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--DV

DRINKWATER

Okay, okay, so a million bands have jumped on the alterno-metal bandwagon since the emergence of Nirvana... This genre still leaves tons of room for innovation and quality music. Drinkwater is one such band that does their craft well. This band has tons of funky fun with their sometimes jangly and sometimes powerchord riffs, plus vocalist Phil Urry can sing very well. The band's melodies are hot. Some of the tunes, like "**It Can't Go On**" and "**Be No. 1**" sway too far in the melodic pop vein for some heavy music diets, but the band is very credible--which you're first hinted at by the pro tape cover artwork and packaging. They should be signed and marketed now, because they're very happenin'.

For ordering info, write: Alan Carr, PO Box 27243, Auckland 4, New Zealand.

--DV

HEARTS CRY

If you like commercial rock and roll with 60's sounding guitar leads, then Hearts Cry is for you. This four-member band has released a full-length, nine-song tape of decent music. The first tune, "**Millennium**," is all keyboards and would be a great concert intro. You don't need a lyric sheet, because Phil, the vocalist, sings very clearly. My favorite tune is "**Just The Same**." It says, "He's just the same, today as He was in those days." This band's focus is definitely evangelical.

Another great tune, "**On Bended Knee**," is done to the tune of "**Come Together**" by The Beatles. Not outstanding, but very enjoyable. Give it a chance! For ordering info, write Moonlite Promotions, 3008 S. 126th Plaza, Suite 52, Omaha NE 68144.

--JL

MANSOUL

Can anyone say fantastic? With this release, who couldn't? Mansoul, a band formerly called Ninthour, was a band I reviewed in Issue #39. I remember them being great then, and they are even better now.

"**Justified by Blood**" starts off this five-song tape with an intro similar to Tourniquet's "**Viento Borrascoso**." A great tune about God's grace. "**Some Kind of Revolution**" has great vocal trade offs that go from death metal to normal. "**Sarxthusia**" combines various scriptures, like Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:21, while "**Victims of Brutality**" is about the horrors of abuse. The last tune is a short instrumental.

This is the best unsigned thrash band I've heard to date, with a semi-original style, great production and tons of talent. This band should be the next thrash act picked up by a label. Here's hoping! To order, send $7 to: Geungerich Management, 4555 McIntosh Ln, Sarasota FL 34232.

--JL

ETERNITY

When I reviewed this band from Hayti, Missouri (guys, where is Hayti?) in Issue #40, I remember the one thing that bothered me were the vocals. My, have things changed! While drummer Kelly Matthews is still singing, he has really changed his style. This time around to the Steve Rowe school, and at times for extra credit like James Hetfield of Metallica.

Musically, this five-song tape; while not as nicely packaged as their last one, is much beefier thrash. I liked this one a lot more. My favorite is "**Keeper of Death**," which takes the perspective of Satan talking about Christ's death and how He's not gonna rise. Little did he know...

This band has really matured fast in a short period of time. If the guys can keep it up, they might just put Hayti on the map. To order, send $5 to: Rt. 1, Box 232, Hayti MO 63851.

--JL

NEHEMIAH

What a difference a little time and practice makes! When I reviewed this band in Issue #38, I wasn't really impressed. Well, color me surprised, because this tape rocks!

The tape starts with a 58-second piece called **Structured Dissonance**, which sounds like the band has gone through the Deliverance "chugga chugga" school of metal. From there they sound like they are going after the Guardian/Def Leppard crowd. My two favorites are **Message** and **Louder Than Hell**, and even **The Way It Should Be**, a mellow tune which was also on their first demo.

The only regret I find is that they are still using way too much keyboards. When used to enhance, it sounds great, but when it dominates over the guitars, it could easily turn off a lot of headbangers. In my opinion, this tape is heads and tails better than their last effort, and has put Nehemiah a step ahead in the metal underground. To order, send $8 (plus $1 shipping) to: Box 10174, Fort Smith AR 72917.

--JL

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Radio & Sales Charts

METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of April 12th:

1 **"Would You Die For Me"**
Bride
2 **"Demons"**
Rose
3 **"Who"**
Crashdog
4 **"Eden"**
Die Happy
5 **"Hell House"**
Godsent Humans
6 **"Dead End Drive"**
Holy Soldier
7 **"Lord of Dreams"**
Deliverance
8 **"Pathogenic Ocular Dissonance"**
Tourniquet
9 **"Deviate"**
Brainchild
10 **"The Obstinate Toy Soldier"**
Lanny Cordola
11 **"Wisdom Calls"**
Veni Domine
12 **"Six Feet Under"**
Applehead
13 **"Void Expression"**
Living Sacrifice
14 **"Consequences"**
Circle Of Dust
15 **"Isaiah 6"**
One Bad Pig
16 **"Dancin' In Heaven"**
Whitecross
17 **"Cage"**
Die Happy
18 **"Die To Myself"**
Under Midnight
19 **"Haunts Of Violence"**
Sacrament
20 **"Corridor To Light"**
Sardonyx

ROCK/METAL SALES CHART

It's back! After exactly one year, we finally have put together what we think will be a consistent chart showcasing and tracking the sales of rock and metal in the Christian marketplace.

1 **"SNAKES IN THE PLAYGROUND"**
BRIDE
2 **"HIGH GEAR"**
WHITECROSS
3 **"VOLUME II"**
DIE HAPPY
4 **"PATHOGENIC OCULAR DISSONANCE"**
TOURNIQUET
5 **"UNSEEN POWER"**
PETRA
6 **"FATHOM"**
MORTAL
7 **"TALES OF WONDER"**
WHITEHEART
8 **"STAY OF EXECUTION"**
DELIVERANCE
9 **"THE KRY"**
THE KRY
10 **"INTENSE LIVE SERIES, V. II"**
TOURNIQUET
11 **"YOU OUGHTA KNOW BY NOW"**
RACHEL RACHEL
12 **"HARD HITTER"**
LIAISON
13 **"NONEXISTENT"**
LIVING SACRIFICE
14 **"BATTLE CRIES"**
THE BRAVE
15 **"INTENSE LIVE SERIES, V. I"**
DELIVERANCE
16 **"BELIEVE"**
UTHANDA
17 **"PILLARS OF HUMANITY"**
THE CRUCIFIED
18 **"HEALING"**
ROSE
19 **"LAST TRAIN"**
HOLY SOLDIER
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Happiness On The Road With Crashdog

Step right up, all those who are fans of One Bad Pig, Undercover and any alternative-type metal bands. Check out the albums by Crashdog. The following is courtesy of ''The Backstage Pass.'' On March 28th the Warehouse was graced by the appearance of REZ and Crashdog for the first concert of many bands since opening its doors to Christian rock bands. The sanctua...er, um...the floor even had a designated mosh pit in the rear left area, which went full thrust from Crashdog's opener to the last heavy REZ song.

I heard many people in the audience say that they had never heard of Crashdog, nor knew where they hailed from, but that they were good. Writer **Thomas Love** cornered Spike (Nard) and Andrew (Mandell) into a back room and gave them the third degree. Hopefully your questions concerning the band will be answered.

**How did you all get involved with Jesus People USA?

''I was a runaway,'' explains Spike. ''I'm from Boulder, Colorado. I ran away when I was fifteen years old. I was living out in the streets. There's a guy who I knew growing up that said he was coming to Jesus People, and it sounded like three square meals a day and a roof over my head, so I was like, 'Sure, why not?'''

**And the Lord changed your life...

''You should've seen him when he showed up!'' laughs Andrew.

''No, don't get into that one!'' pleads Spike. ''I came there and I lived there for a month and I was a Christian. There were times when I was a child that I accepted the fact that God was real, but I never accepted the fact that this was urgent. So, when I came to the community, I lived miserably for the first month I was there. Being around a bunch of people that have the peace of the Lord is a drag when you don't--and you know why they have the peace of the Lord. About a month later the Lord showed up. It wasn't like this sudden thing as much as it was a thing that finally wore in on me.''

**Is that when the Spirit took hold of you (motioning to his hair)?

''Manifestation,'' quips Spike.

''No,'' laughs Andrew, ''he came packaged like that.''

''Yeah, I came packaged like that,'' agrees Spike. ''I'd been in the punk scene for about three or four years before I came to the community. I think that I was definitely blessed coming to Jesus People, because I definitely did not have the strength for the first few years I was a Christian to do it on my own. Even to this day...any man who can tell you that he can hold his own weight is fooling you. Because, really, it's only through God's grace we are saved, not by our works. And truthfully, the more I've been a Christian, the more I realize what a bigger mess I am.''

''That's the one thing community can do for you,'' says Andrew. ''It may not be this thing that's the answer for everybody, but, man, if you want to face your own 'who-you-are' and 'what kind of sinner you really are,' and come to see the reality that all men are sinners and yourself, you'll see it there--especially when you live with 400 people.''

**It's like 365 day camp.

''And it's like you think there's things you never thought you had problems with,'' admits Spike. ''But people will come to me and say, 'Dude, you need to change this area of your life,' and it's like, 'Whoa!' Just realizing different things like frustrations. I think that I really wouldn't have the motivation to change unless I had the people around me that are really good examples. These people really try in their lives to live for Christ each day. And man, I'm changed. It wasn't like I took this power pill. Glenn (Kaiser) didn't wake up one day ripping out of the bed with his guitar, preaching the Gospel. He had his years of really trying to get his head straight. Really, he is an amazing man. It is by God's grace we are all saved. For us as a band, I think it's a good thing, too, because I don't think we can stay together as a band if we were not members of the community--if we didn't have the support. Like, going on the road, even. I know my wife's not alone in the house by herself.''

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**I don't want to call you an underground... I mean, I don't want to insult you, but...

"No," protests Andrew. "It's not an insult to us. We're proud of it. We're underground, man."

**Where did you get your influence for the music? How did you get into the punk scene?

"I was a metal kid with no identity," says Spike. "I was a no-name kid. I wasn't into sports, I was horrible in school. My dad was like, 'Man, when are you going to get a life, kid?'"

**You didn't come from a Christian home?

"I came from a Christian home," Spike says, as Andrew laughs. "We went to church every weekend, but it sure didn't mean a whole lot. One time on tv I saw Peter Jennings with this big special on the punk scene. For some reason it hit me between the eyes. 'That is my niche in life. That is where I need to be.' I went into the punk scene when I was in sixth grade. At first, that's where I felt accepted. I thought, 'This crowd really digs me.' I felt at home. As the years went by, I realized that these guys could care less about me. As long as I had the money to go to shows; as long as I had the money to be around friends, everyone was cool and dandy. But, the minute you're short of change, people are like, 'Forget you!' It seemed like a real hopeless thing.

"I think it was at that time that the Lord brought me to Jesus People. Jesus People was like, 'We don't want nothing from you. If you want to jump on the train and come along with us, then fine.' They didn't expect anything from me except to be devoted to the Lord and live for Him each day. It's real different than the kids who are trapped up in anarchy and the punk scene and all this tough power thing...I was in the gutter."

**Out of the millions of names you could have chosen, why Crashdog?

"We had a million names," says Spike. "I guarantee you that. We all had our ideas, being four different guys and very opinionated people. Bryan had his ideas, Greg had his, Andrew had his and I had mine. We finally had to sit down with the pastor and ask, 'What name do you like?' Andrew wanted to call the band Crashdog and I was like, 'Hey man, I'd eat dirt before I would join a band called Crashdog.' He thought it was a great name. We asked the pastor what she thought about the name. The pastor flipped my lid. She said it was a great name! I was at her feet, like begging her not to name it that.

"It finally got down to the point that churches argue over what color their pews should be. I thought, 'What's in a name? Just name yourself and pray God will bless it.' The name ain't gonna make or break the band. On the practice side, it's the band, but truthfully it's the Lord. I think the Lord is really gonna use it."

**When you were born, Andrew, I can see your father looked at you and said, "Andrew," but when you (Spike) were born, I don't think your father looked at you and said, "Spike!" Where did you get your name? What is your real name?

"My real name is Tim Davis. I'm in Johnny's family (like a discipleship group or organic family--Ed) and I was sitting there once and Wendi (Kaiser) came into the room. I had my hair in spikes and she said, 'Hey Spike, so this is what it means, 'Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder?'' It's funny, because after that everybody started calling me Spike. When I started writing for Cornerstone Magazine, Dawn said, 'We need to give you a spiritual pen name for fun,' and she mentioned Spike Nard. I thought it sounded too close to nerd.

"In the verse in John where Jesus gets His feet washed by Mary Magdalene, the perfume that she washed Jesus' feet with in the KJV is 'spike nard.' Before I knew that, it was one of my favorite scriptures, because this woman was such a sinner, still she humbled herself before the Lord and washed His feet. He was like, 'This woman's sins are forgiven way more than these pharisees.' I always picture myself at God's feet. I would hope that my life would be the fragrance to God that Christ smelled. Sometimes it smells good, sometimes it smells bad. It depends on which door He opens."

**What would you say to a Christian who has a friend who is in the punk scene or the metal scene that wouldn't set foot inside a church?

"One thing that Christ did in the Gospels," answers Spike, "is He accepted the people for who they were, not what they did. To be a friend to a non-Christian doesn't mean you have to put up with their jive. Christians freak out and they back off and it smells a mile away. And they say, 'You don't accept me or these metalheads over here, because we all swear.' A Christian has to show compassion and really accept them. They need to love them, not because they're a preppie or a metalhead, but because they are a person and they need acceptance--and that will smell a mile away too. When they are in need and they are in the gutter and their cool friends have dumped them on the side of the street, they will come knocking on your door."

"Sometimes," adds Andrew, "the Christian parents begin to say, 'Oh no, my kid's into this or that.' They identify the sin with the lifestyle, which a lot of times it is. Then they begin to identify the cultural things of that lifestyle, like his hair. 'If I can get him to change his hair, then I'll change him.' Really, all that does by jumping on your kid's case about how he looks or what kind of music he listens to is alienate him. That angle, like trying to deny them or force them into law in hopes that it will somehow make a moral change in their life. I think it is a wrong road to take. I don't think you should let whatever the person wants to do go on under your roof. Obviously, if it's a sin, it's a sin. But, to major on culture is a mistake. I think the kids will respect you if you major on moral issues."

**Attitudes...

"Attitudes."

"I think," says Spike, "just to finish that one thing real quick is it's a lifestyle. To live a lifestyle that's, 'Hey man, I'm not perfect, but what's different between me and you is that I've got the peace of the Lord. When the rubber meets the road, I turn to Him.' Kids will see that and they'll say, 'Wow, there's something different about this kid.' They will desire that and will wonder, 'What has this kid got that I ain't got?' As Christians, we need to read Scriptures like, 'Don't let anybody look down on you for your youth. But prove to them that you are worthy in love, kindness, gentleness and patience.' The Scripture is saying, 'Don't look down on them,' but also they need to show their parents that they really want to live for Christ, and other kids will feel that."

People who attend Crashdog concerts definitely come away with that message. It's great to see a band that has jammin' tunes, but is also committed to the philosophy that "the biggest thing with Crashdog is that the music comes second. We want to convey the humility of the Lord."

HM

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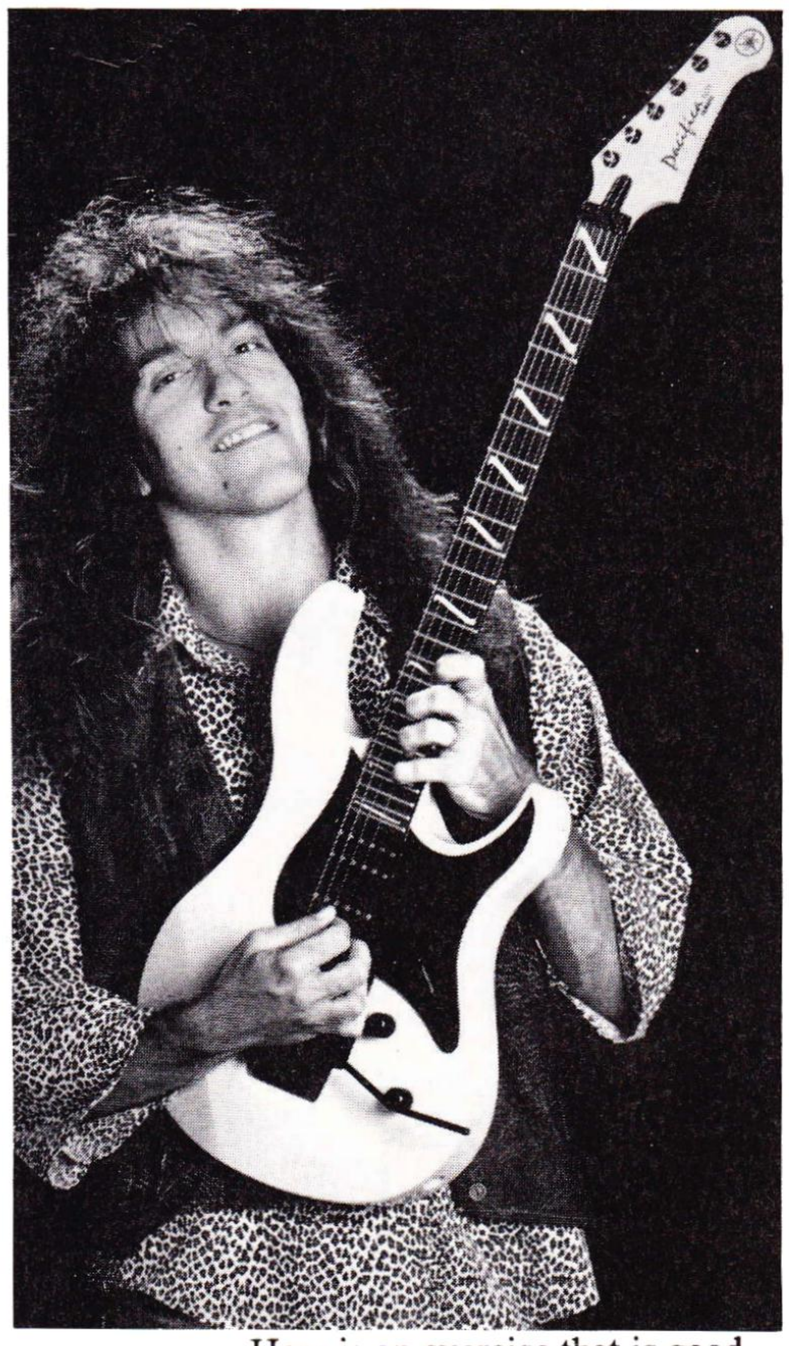
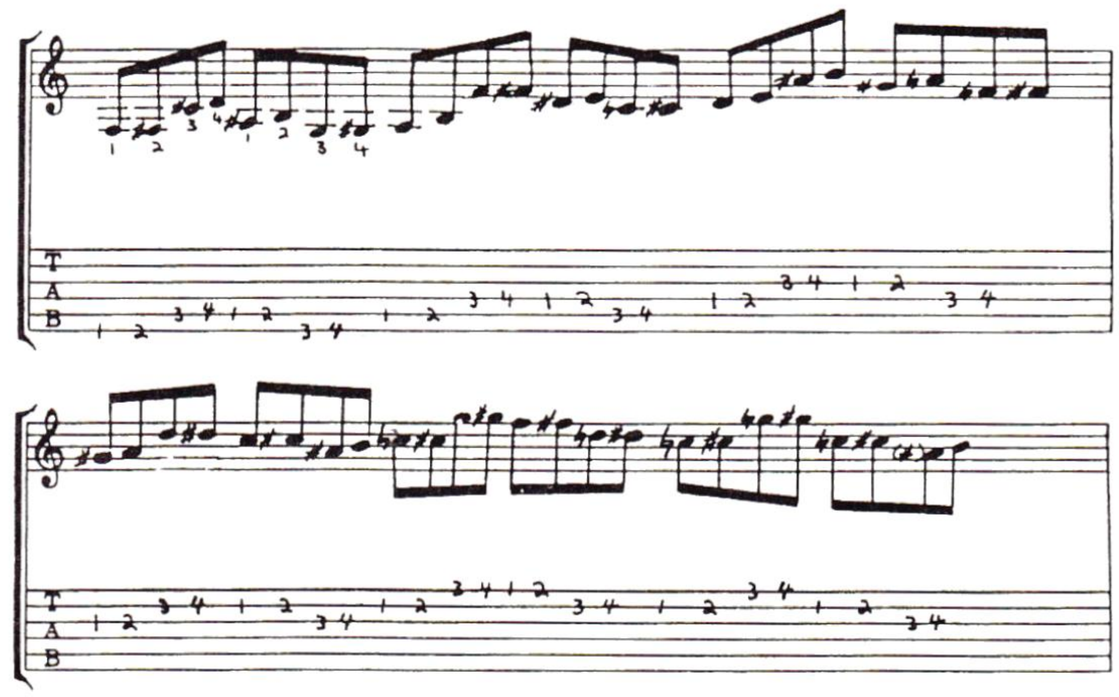
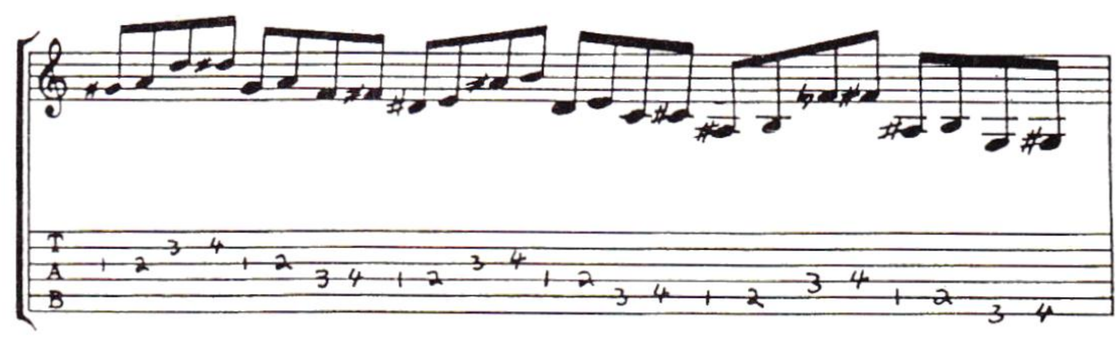
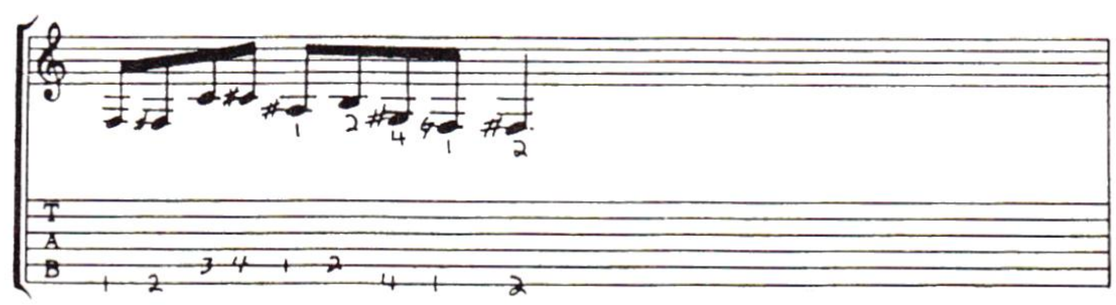
LICKS & TRICKS *By Jeff Scheetz*









Here is an exercise that is good for those of you who get tired of the same old 1-2-3-4 on each string. This is based on the same 1-2-3-4 premise, but, as you play across the neck, there is a lot more jumping from string to string.

While you are doing this exercise, it may be a good time to give your technique the "once over." Are you using alternate picking? Are you keeping your pick strokes short and concise? Is your left hand in good position: thumb low and centered; fingers arched over the fret board; playing on only the tips of your fingers? Are you keeping your fingers low and close to the strings as you play, or are they flailing around like bare feet on a hot sidewalk!?! Are both hands relaxed? Are you sick of all these questions yet? Sorry. It is a good idea to give yourself a check up every once in a while just to make sure your technique is actually helping you play, instead of hindering you.

Well, that's all for now, but, before I go, I'd like to leave you with a special bit of poetry. I'm not sure of the author, but I know it has had a profound effect on my outlook.

I never saw a purple cow
I never hope to see one,
but I can tell you anyhow
I'd rather see than be one.

See ya! **HM**

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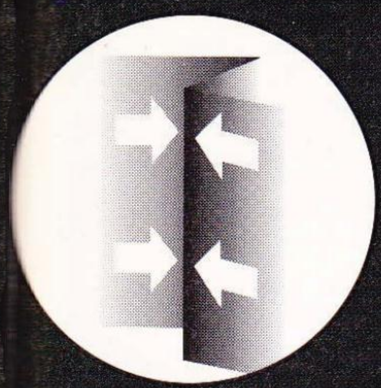

Fold to Match Arrows for secret message

There's No Moral — justification for

dabbling in the occult, pornography & lust

Break the momentum, this sad commentary

afflicting us, a contradiction

from how God wants

us to live as Believers

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Have you ever watched a loved one suffer unjustly? Do you know someone who has been a victim of violent crime? If so, you may have some idea of what it was like for the disciples of Jesus as they saw Him arrested by a detachment of soldiers and taken away in the middle of the night for beatings, sleep depravation and more beatings.

History shows that most of the disciples were scared for their lives. Peter denied having known Jesus three times (fulfilling what Jesus said would happen). They must have known that Jesus was in trouble, especially since He had been warning them that He would be ''mocked, insulted, spit on, flogged and killed.'' (Luke 18:32-33) All of these things happened to Him exactly as He said.

The men who were guarding Him began mocking and beating Him. They even blindfolded Him and took turns slugging Him, asking Him to ''prophesy'' who was doing the hitting. They said many other insulting things to Him. After daybreak the crowd of high priests and other supposed ''men of God'' kept coming up with lies to falsely accuse Jesus of starting a revolution against the Roman government--a very serious charge.

Pilate, the local governor, turned Jesus over to be flogged--even though He was innocent of the charges brought against Him. Roman floggings were so brutal that sometimes the victim died before crucifixion. Jesus, a strong man Who had probably worked as a carpenter for close to 15 years, withstood this horrible beating, but this was only the beginning of His capital punishment. He was nailed to a cross and then made to hang on it until He died a tortuous death. Victims of crucifixion would die by suffocating, due to eventually not being able to lift themselves up in order to draw a breath of air into their lungs. It is a long and drawn out process that has long ago been outlawed as ''cruel and unusual punishment'' by every civilized society.

I cannot fathom how Jesus had the strength to take all this abuse at the hands of men that He created. I would have a hard time even going to jail for something I did not do; much less be crucified for it! My sense of justice would cause me to resist my prosecutors all the way. I would get angry and fight them until my last breath. When innocent people suffer, justice seems denied.

Jesus was innocent of all sin whatsoever, yet His death served justice. His death served the due penalty that each one of us deserves if we went on trial today for the sin we have committed in our lives. (And we will stand trial one day for this.) God, in His kind mercy, has made a substitution for us. Instead of us having to be punished for our wrongdoing, a just and innocent man substituted for us and took the penalty--all of it. Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross. Evil men nailed Him to it, but His love and willingness to pay for your sin kept Him there until the end.

After He was pronounced dead, He was taken off the cross and laid in a grave. He stayed there less than 72 hours, though, because He was raised from the dead. He is alive now and is again drawing people to Himself. By faith you can believe that His death penalty pays for your sin and that you can now be justified and clean in the eyes of the One and only true God. To make this real in your life, simply ''confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.'' (Romans 10:9) If you do this, you can honestly believe that all the pain and torture that Jesus went through was nothing compared to the glory and joy that receiving you into His kingdom will bring Him.

HM